

THE FUTURE OF COUNTRY HOUSES (Illustrated)

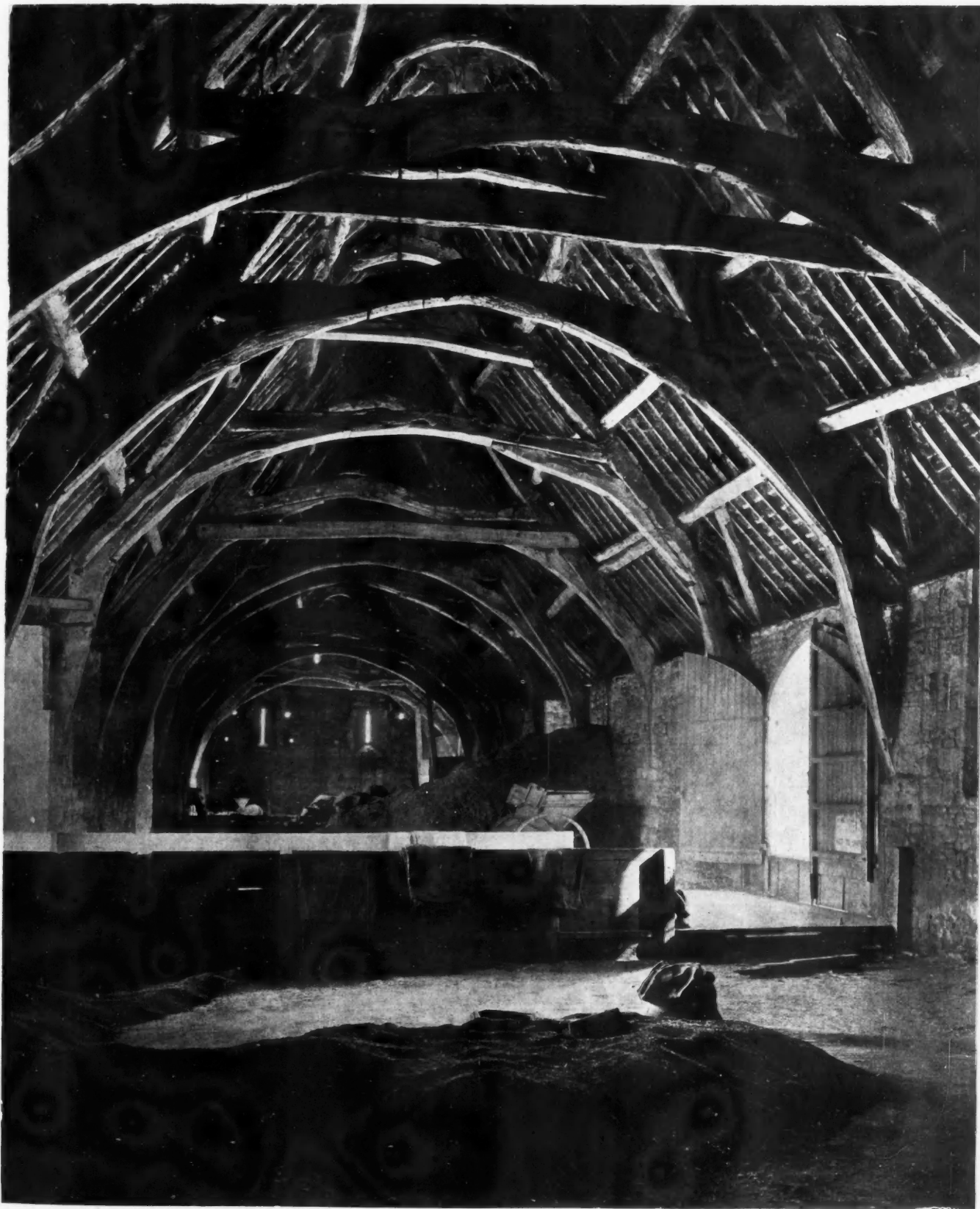
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# Country Life

On Sale Friday  
OCTOBER 17, 1941

ONE SHILLING & THREEPENCE



SUNLIGHT INSIDE THE GREAT BARN: TISBURY, WILTSHIRE.

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1/- per line (min. 3 lines)

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## FLATS AND CHAMBERS

Advertisements under this heading will be found on the CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES feature on page 714.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**ESTATE CARPENTER.** Handyman required for country house and farm, able to do repairs, painting, simple concreting. Permanent post and good wages reliable, hard-working man; ex-soldier preferred.—CAPTAIN HARTMAN, Luckington Manor, near Chippenham, Wiltshire.

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**THE EN-TOUT-CAS CO., LTD., SYSTON** LEICESTER, the well known makers of Hard Lawn Tennis Courts. The staff and plant will be immediately available as soon as the V day arrives.



# Country Life

VOL. XC. No. 2335.

OCTOBER 17, 1941.

Published Friday, Price ONE SHILLING & THREEPENCE.

## KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

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Telegrams:  
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One mile from Fordingbridge

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WEST PARK, NORTH FRONT.

Comprising the medium sized mansion, beautifully situated in a heavily timbered Park

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SEVENTEEN MIXED FARMS, several having superior farm residences and equipped with suitable buildings and cottages.



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Good stabling.

Cottage, very attractive gardens with tennis and croquet lawns, rock garden, kitchen garden and paddock.

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30 miles from London.

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IN A SECLUDED POSITION

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*Lovely position on the Common, facing South.*

TO BE LET FURNISHED OR WOULD BE SOLD

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COMPLETELY MODERNISED AND BEAUTIFULLY FITTED.

HALL, GENT'S CLOAKROOM, 2 RECEPTION ROOMS, 3 BEDROOMS (5 BEDS), BATHROOM.

GAS. TELEPHONE.

WELL-STOCKED GARDEN AND GRASSLAND, IN ALL

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IN PARKLIKE MEADOWLAND OF 6 ACRES

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DOUBLE GARAGE. STABLING. COTTAGE.

(Another cottage if wanted.)

Electric light. Central heating. Walled kitchen garden. Tennis lawn.

£6,500 with 1 cottage and 6 acres,

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of mellowed red brick, dating back to the XVIIIth century, in a park with long drives and containing many interesting features. 14 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 5 reception rooms and hall. Stabling. Garages. Cottages. Excellent buildings. Charming old grounds. Walled kitchen garden. 2 Farms. Woods.

In all about 380 acres

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*Overlooking wooded common.*



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11 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms. Electric light. Partial central heating. Main drainage. Stabling. Garage for 3 cars.

3 cottages.

Pleasure grounds, finely timbered, with hard tennis court.

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*600ft. above sea level. Close to village.*

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7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, domestic offices, etc. Electric light and heating. Excellent water supply. 2 garages. Laundry. 10 cottages. Modern farm buildings including accommodation for 50 cows.

ESTATE EXTENDS TO 120 ACRES

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OR HOUSE AND GROUNDS ONLY  
WOULD BE SOLD  
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FURNITURE AND STOCK AT  
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*Close to several commons and golf courses.*

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8 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Hall and 3 reception rooms.

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PRICE £3,500

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*Favourite district.*

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9 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, hall and 3 reception rooms.

MAIN SERVICES. CENTRAL HEATING 2 GARAGES.

GARDENS AND GROUNDS.

5 ACRES

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OR MIGHT BE LET FURNISHED  
FOR WINTER MONTHS

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*Basingstoke 6 miles. Bus service nearby.*

5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, servants' hall, etc.

Electric light. Central heating, fitted basins (h. and c.) in all bedrooms. Esse cooker.

Garage with room over.

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Two cottages and a villa.

THE FARM BUILDINGS include cow stalls for 55, ample stabling and garages.

Large covered Danish type PIG HOUSE and PENS CAPABLE OF HOLDING 700 CATTLE.

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Main Line Station 3 Miles.

WELL-APPOINTED RESIDENCE built of brick, in first-rate order throughout and fitted with all modern improvements. It stands about 300ft. up, approached by a drive. The house contains entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Central heating. Companies' electric light and water. Telephone. Modern drainage. Stabling for 7. Garage for 6 cars. Pair of cottages, each containing 4 rooms.

THE GARDENS are delightfully laid out and include lawns, flower and kitchen gardens, orchard and grassland.

### ABOUT 10 ACRES.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD HUNTING. GOLF.

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Delightful position, high up, facing South, and commanding fine views of the South Downs.

### GEORGIAN STYLE RESIDENCE WITH ABOUT 200 ACRES OR LESS

THE HOUSE stands in park-like surroundings and is approached by an avenue drive of half a mile in length with lodge at entrance. Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, billiards room, 9 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms.

CENTRAL HEATING. ELECTRIC LIGHT. TELEPHONE. COMPANY'S WATER.

Stabling. Garage. Several Cottages. Farmhouse.

UNIQUE GARDENS AND GROUNDS.

LAWNS, ROSE GARDEN, CROQUET LAWN, LAKE, SWIMMING POOL WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN, RICH FEEDING PASTURE AND WOODLAND.

THE HOUSE WOULD BE SOLD WITH ABOUT 120 ACRES. HUNTING. GOLF.

Further particulars of the Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1.

(32,974)



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Station 1 mile. Bedford 8 miles.

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BRICK AND SLATED RESIDENCE with South aspect and enjoying extensive views. 4 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, bathroom.

Electric light. Partial central heating. Main water. Stabling for 5. Garage. Cottage.

MODEL RANGE OF BRICK AND TILED FARM BUILDINGS.

LORDSHIP OF MANOR INCLUDED.

Good Hunting Centre

FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION

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Well-planned on two floors. Hall, 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Central heating. Companies' electric light, power and water. Telephone. Modern drainage. Garage for 2 cars.

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Long stretch of Trout Fishing



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STABLING FOR 10.

4 COTTAGES.

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Central heating throughout.

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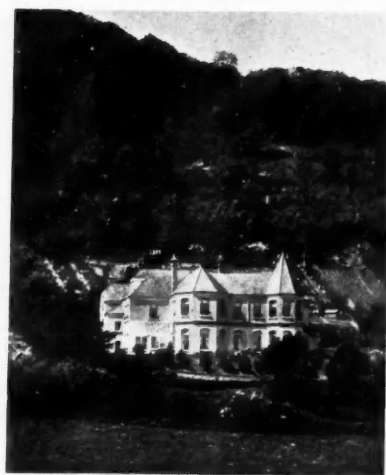
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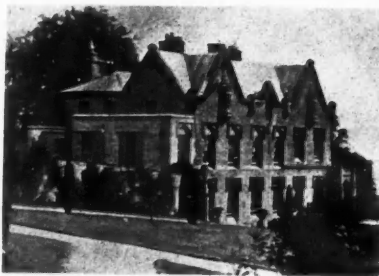
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DOMESTIC OFFICES. 11 BEDROOMS, 4 BATH-  
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ON A SOUTHERN SLOPE. DRIVE APPROACH. HALL, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, 7 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM.

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GARAGE FOR 2 CARS

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WITH FRONTAGE TO THE FINE SANDY BEACH AT 'HELL'S MOUTH ON THE ROCKY AND ROMANTIC NORTHERN COAST, IN ALL ABOUT

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Large garage. Delightful grounds. Rock  
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Garage for 2 cars. Gardener's bungalow  
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MEDIUM-SIZED RESIDENCE. FARMS. COTTAGES.  
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Built in the Manor House style and enjoying fine woodland views.

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WELL-TIMBERED GROUNDS with full size tennis court, apple orchard, small paddock,

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*Pears*

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# COUNTRY LIFE

OCTOBER 17, 1941



*Harlip*

## LADY DILL

Lady Dill—whose marriage to General Sir John Dill, K.C.B., C.M.G., Chief of the Imperial General Staff, took place quietly last week—is the only child of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Charrington, of Castlemaine, Twyford, Berkshire, and Cliff House, Sandgate, and was previously married to the late Brigadier Dennis Furlong, D.S.O., M.C., O.B.E.

# COUNTRY LIFE

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## MAN-POWER AND THE LAND

WHILE the House of Commons was comparing notes on some of the problems and anomalies in the use of man (and woman) power in the industrial war effort, the Minister of Agriculture was receiving a deputation of the National Farmers' Union on the agricultural aspect of the subject. He intimated that indefinite postponement of the call-up of 10,000 farm workers due to join the Forces on December 1 is being considered. If the Minister is determined, as he seems to be, to have yet another 2,000,000 acres ploughed up, any further reduction in the numbers of able-bodied farm workers is clearly inadvisable. Yet there are certainly possibilities in Miss Megan Lloyd George's proposal, which the Government already is examining, for alternation of Army training with civilian work. If the armed forces are to be further expanded, some such dualism will become inevitable, in spite of the disorganisation both to production and training. The farmers' principal question was how they can afford the proposed £3 a week agricultural wage, if that is decreed. Tied as the men are to the land, when their industrial colleagues are making big money in the factories, wage-compensation is obviously equitable. But wages are inevitably tied to the cost of food, and unless the increase comes mainly from a subsidy, either the inflation spiral will be accelerated or farming will become uneconomic. Mr. Hudson intimated that the 1942 cereal prices will be linked with the wages decision—a relatively simple step compared with the problems of organisation involved in reducing the wastage of time and man-power in production revealed by Members in the Commons debate.

## ROYAL ACADEMY DISCOURSES

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS delivered the first and most famous discourses to the Royal Academy. Significantly the six arranged by Sir Edwin Lutyens for Thursdays at three o'clock in this month and next are not about painting but town-planning; more particularly that of London, for which the R.A. Reconstruction Committee have now worked out a complete scheme based on Sir Charles Bressey's traffic plan, as a long range, if not point-blank, ideal. Judging from Professor Patrick Abercrombie's opening talk on "Central Planning and Our Cities," last week, there will be nothing academic about them, though we were glad to recognise something of the grand manner persisting in his outlook. His views, which readers will remember from his contribution to our series "London That Is to Be," matter a good deal; for he is now Town-planning Adviser to the London County Council. He compared the Academicians' sketch-designs to the "Architects' Plan" for Paris made in the Revolution and used as a pattern by all later planners. This week's lecture by Sir Giles Scott was on the inspiring theme "The City and the River," with the Lord Mayor himself in the Chair. The City authorities have thus had an opportunity of seeing how Sir Giles envisages that the City could, and probably should, be replanned. Other important subjects are "Housing and the People" by Mr. F. R. Hiorns, Chief Architect to the L.C.C., with Sir Reginald Rowe in the Chair,

on November 6, and "Mobility" by Sir Charles Bressey, Sir Montagu Barlow Chairman, November 13. The Royal Academy is to be congratulated on thus reviving one of the objects of its foundation: to be a forum for public discussion of the arts, of which planning is the newest and, now, the most important.

## DEER FORESTS IN WAR

MAJOR G. D. ARMOUR'S article, on another page, may be thought to answer the renewed agitation for making some agricultural use of deer forests. His main point is that deer forests are deer forests because experience has shown to Scottish farmers, who are not lacking in enterprise, that they are no use for anything else. If some way can be found to overcome the natural difficulties—remoteness, extreme roughness, and huge unenclosed extent, not to mention a hard and treacherous climate—well and good. A Scottish landowner has suggested that a survey should be made of available summer grazings and an organisation devised for transporting cattle to the forests in summer, when lowland grazing is getting short. Owners would be asked to give the grazing free of charge in return for the improvement of it that would accrue. Even so, "it might be necessary to make grants towards the cost of long-distance transport." That is very probable, especially considering that the grazing not already used by local glen farmers may be ten or more miles over rough going from the nearest station. It is thought that some farmers would entertain the idea if, further, they were satisfied that their cattle would be properly looked after. But by whom, and how? Fifty fat Aberdeen-Angus heifers, accustomed to a snug lowland field, would be a handful in a bog on the edge of a 1,000ft. scree in a mist with night falling.

## RAIDERS

I HEARD the raiders in the hedge  
Where spindle shines and haws are thick;  
Their voices called from tree to tree:  
"I'm here . . . no, here . . . come  
follow quick."  
From thorn to willow on they sped,  
A flirited tail, a bright-crowned head,  
Bluebonnet, coal cap, merrily  
They passed, and with a zit-zit-zit  
A gold-crest followed long-tailed tit.

But Robin on a hazel spray  
Whispers his little wisps of song:  
"These go . . . these go their madcap way  
But I'm your guardian winter-long."

WINIFRED LETTS.

## FARMER'S FEAST

A HUNDRED years ago the Wilts and Gloucester Standard, in a style typical of the period, suggested that the "good old English custom" of "Harvest Home" was being replaced by a system of perfunctory tipping. The toast of "The Master" was being forgotten and the merry song and jocund dance would soon belong to the past. This prophecy was only partly fulfilled. On some estates and farms the "Harvest Home" is still the custom, and on others, it would appear, it is being revived. The question whether such a revival can permanently succeed probably depends on how far it is an attempt, for sentimental reasons, to brighten up the so-called drabness of to-day with the "colourful" associations of yesterday; and how far the custom has a real social function in the life of the community. In the past it undoubtedly had one. With the harvest in and Michaelmas approaching, the end of the rustic year had come and a new one would soon be starting. It had, too, a traditional and religious significance going back no doubt to pre-Christian and pre-feudal times. But it was its economic and social function which kept it going. In these days, with a reviving and flourishing agriculture assuming its old importance in the countryside, the social and economic functions of Harvest Home may well return. Tradition has it that on such occasions plain speaking had its part as well as good fare and jollity, and that master and man often worked together better as a result. Confidence is established and renewed more easily in such surroundings than by deputations to managers and agents.

## APPLE STORAGE

SUCCESSFUL storage of apples, which everybody with a tree is interested in this year depends on three principles: low temperature, restriction of evaporation, and a confined air-space. Thus a cellar is better than an attic and often better than an outdoor shed. The great secret of storage is to wrap each apple in paper. Newspaper is just as good as grease-proof paper, which is now almost unobtainable. Wrapping serves the double purpose of checking evaporation and maintaining round the fruit the atmosphere of carbon dioxide breathed out by the apple—the principle of the modern gas-storage plant. When wrapped, the apples are packed in boxes, or in a "pie" like potatoes or carrots, or up to three layers on shelves if these are available. A note in the current number of the *Royal Horticultural Society Journal* emphasises that, before wrapping, the apples must be carefully picked over to eliminate any damaged or even slightly bruised; and recommends that they should be left for a week or more spread under cover in order to "sweat" and get rid of surface moisture—though experience last year, in our own case, suggests that this is not essential. Recent experiments have been made with dipping apples in an emulsion of 12 per cent. olive oil beaten up with 1 per cent. of sodium oleate, and water. The fruits in a wire basket are dipped in it for a few seconds, then stood to dry. But as, in any case, they have to be wrapped up, and treatment only prolongs the life of cooking varieties and not the dessert pippins, the method hardly seems worth the trouble.

## ELDERBERRIES

ONE of the pleasantest sights in the hedges at this time of year are the elderberries looking like so many clusters of black grapes in miniature. The complaint is often heard that nobody nowadays seems to be picking or using them, and sometimes the information that elderberry pies and jellies are delicious and that in America they are eaten as often as blackberries. Those who have eaten elderberry pie may deem this praise a little too high, even as is the praise of the elder wine in *Pickwick*. "Long after the ladies had retired, did the hot elder-wine, well qualified with brandy and spice, go round and round and round again; and sound was the sleep and pleasant were the dreams that followed." It sounds heavenly, almost too good to be true, and in fact he who has drunk elder wine, without perhaps sufficient of those agreeable fortifications, may have found it sometimes, in the words of Dandy Dinmont, "overcauld for his stomach." However that may be, the true reason of this apparent neglect of the elderberry is probably not a lack of appreciation but sugar. The country housewife has not enough sugar to go round for all the things she would like to make, and elderberry wine must share the fate of domestic beer and other pleasant cordials till happier days return.

## FOOD FOR PETS

THE great yellow-framed discs of sunflowers meet the eye in many a garden. Many have been sown to supplement supplies of poultry food, but we suspect that very often, too, they indicate a pet parrot somewhere or other. Food for pet birds, especially of the parrot and budgerigar description, is difficult nowadays. Prior to the war it was mostly imported. We never paused to think when we walked into a shop to buy a spray of millet or a packet of "parrot seed" where that seed was grown, but we realise now it was not at home. Sore have been the strains to which budgerigar-lovers have been reduced. They have been, and are, thankful for collected grass seeds out of hay-lofts and the seeds from threshing-boxes. Cat and dog owners, too, know difficulty in obtaining food for their pets, and certain shops are doing a good trade in cats' meat. Horse-flesh has never been in such demand—incidentally with great benefit to the cats and dogs, which do far better on such a diet than the farinaceous foods mistakenly given them by doting owners in ordinary times. No doubt, home-grown sunflower seed is equally good for the parrot tribe, though it must be ripe, and, alas, not many sunflowers will have ripened sufficiently this year.





PART OF THE RUINS OF HULNE ABBEY, A THIRTEENTH CENTURY CARMELITE MONASTERY NEAR ALNWICK

## A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By MAJOR C. S. JARVIS

AS was expected, my S.O.S. call for a cure of dry eczema in dogs has had a [most gratifying response, and a great number of most practical prescriptions have been received, which are dealt with in another column. Some of the correspondents recommend internal treatment with arsenic, and I remember now that arsenic in correct doses has very remarkable qualities, for, besides being cured by it myself when I developed eczema in the great heat of a Libyan oasis, I treated with it inadvertently a whole tribe of Beduin with the most exhilarating results.

It was during the locust invasion of Sinai in 1930, when practically the whole peninsula was a moving black mass of the loathsome insects. We tried every method of extermination from trenches and barriers to flame guns, and finally experimented with bran impregnated with arsenic, which was successful. As there were something like 6,000 men—soldiers, policemen and civilians—engaged in the war, and as they were dotted about all over the desert, it was impossible to find sufficient experts to command every locust-fighting party. The result was that tins of pure arsenic, sufficient to kill off all the inhabitants of a large-sized town, were handed about in a cheerful, haphazard manner as if they were bottles of lager beer. The poisoned bran also was strewn in a most prodigal manner so that in some places it lay 3ins. thick, taking a toll of the grazing flocks of the Arab and the fauna of the desert.

**A**NIMAL casualties continued to occur long after the last of the locusts had vanished, and I was thinking we should never be free from the ill effects of arsenic when rumours came in of the marvellous health-giving properties of the water in a certain desert well, which had previously borne the reputation of being barely potable. Sheikhs came to me to certify to the fact that the whole tribe had been born anew: "Skin diseases had disappeared, eye trouble was gone, children were growing up and thriving, men and women were bursting with rude health, and as for the virility of the grandfathers—*Wallahi!*"

Being suspicious of these extraordinary manifestations from a previously second-rate well I sent the Egyptian M.O. down to report.

He came back looking worried. The rains, he said, had washed down a great quantity of poisoned bran to the vicinity of the well, and an analysis of the water proved that it was impregnated with arsenic. By the grace of Allah the amount was just sufficient to constitute a curative dose and not a poison, but who could tell what the result might be when there was further rain? As nothing short of a Maginot Line would keep the Beduin away from the well once they had discovered its health-giving and aphrodisiac qualities, it was lucky Allah continued to see to it that the arsenic entered the well according to the prescribed formula.

**F**ROM time to time the shooting correspondents of COUNTRY LIFE take us seriously to task, and exhort us to exercise greater care with our guns. At the end of every shooting season, so they say, guns should be most carefully overhauled with every part of the mechanism examined for rust or damp, and above all the cleaning of them should never be left to keepers, loaders and others not intimately concerned with the well-being of the weapon. All this is most excellent advice, but few of us have reliable memories, and occasionally circumstances prevent the owner of a gun from carrying out these instructions and seeing to the cleaning of his weapon personally. I remember that in October, 1914, when I received a telephone message to proceed with a draft to France at one hour's notice, my subaltern was out with my gun trying for partridges in the vicinity of the camp. He returned with it just as I was marching off, and with tears in my eyes I said farewell to him, exhorting him to clean the gun thoroughly and oil it well before sending it off to store with my heavy baggage. I did not see that gun again until it was sent out to me in Palestine in 1918; and I have been looking for that subaltern ever since!

**T**HERE are a number of good stories concerning gun tragedies of this description, where the tragedy happens to the gun and not to the handler or onlooker, but these are amusing only to the listener—the actual owner failing always to see the slightest humour in the episode. There was a man I knew in Egypt, who worshipped his pair of Purdeys, and who

pondered for months over the advisability of having these delicate weapons sent out to a country where sand and dust predominate. Discovering that the duck-shooting of the Delta was worthy of the best that our gunsmiths produce he decided eventually to have them out, and took the trouble to go down to Port Said to meet them on arrival. While descending the gangway of the ship with the case and its precious contents in his hand there was the inevitable struggle with a swarm of backsheesh-hunting porters, the handle was torn off, and the case fell into the Canal!

**T**HERE was another careful Purdey owner in India, who was invited up to the hills by a tea-planting friend to try for the small Himalayan partridge, or See-see. The tea-planter himself was not particularly keen on shooting, and regarded his gun merely as a kitchen utensil to be used solely for filling the pot, but his bearer was of a different kidney and took the greatest care of the aged weapon, cleaning it assiduously and keeping it bright and polished.

At the end of the first day's shooting the guest was told he could safely leave the cleaning of his gun to the bearer as he was an exceptionally careful and painstaking man. He was! Finding the new gun in a most deplorable state of dullness he set to work with polishing powders and sand-paper and eventually returned it bright and polished, and looking just like the Sahib's, with every trace of browning and most of the chasing removed.

**W**ITH regard to gun tragedies of the more serious variety there are any number of these occurring almost daily where lack of the most ordinary precautions, and wanton recklessness, have been shown by men who understand guns thoroughly and who should know better. I saw a painful instance of this the other day where the farmer and his neighbours were lined up with their guns as the tractor cut the last small square of standing corn in the centre of the field. Of course all the dogs were there as well, when it was obvious the situation demanded either dogs or guns, but not both. A rabbit broke with a dog in hot pursuit, his muzzle a short foot behind the animal's scut, and a fool of a farmer fired, with the result that everyone

except himself expected; but very luckily the dog got off with a light peppering.

A week or so ago another of our farmers disappeared while out rabbit shooting, and, after a lengthy hunt in which the military took part, his body was discovered in a thick hedge-row through which he had been crawling while dragging his hammer gun behind him.

WHILE I was serving in Egypt one of my Camel Corps subalterns fired one barrel at a rock-pigeon, wounding it slightly, and then, foolishly propping the gun against the trunk of a palm tree, ran off to catch the bird. Two of the Arab police in the near-by post came out to see the reason for the shot. They saw the gun leaning up against the tree—one policeman held it up while the other peered down the barrels to see if they were loaded, and at the same moment the first policeman pulled the triggers to make sure!

This grisly story is only equalled by that of the Chinese Labour Corps and the Mills's bomb. The Chinese Labour Corps were clearing up an old dump behind the lines during the last war when a newly arrived recruit found a Mills's bomb. He drew the pin out, and then held it to his ear listening to the ticking of the fuse inside. The remaining Chinamen, who were old hands and knew all about Mills's bombs, were tickled to death and watched the scene with delight, but not a word of warning.

When the bomb went off with the obvious result they rolled on the ground in the throes of uncontrolled mirth!

THE word "escapist" is used to-day only in a contemptuous sense, the argument being that if anyone endeavours to forget the war for a few hours of relaxation in the evening he or she is shirking responsibilities, and is afraid to face facts. I must admit that it is not particularly easy to escape owing to the difficulty of finding anything to read that has not got a war setting, and—excluding what one might call the inevitable *I Was Hitler's Light-house Keeper* series—every recognised writer in the land has brought his or her novel right up to date by the introduction of bombing, evacuees and concentration camps.

If civilians are denied the right to escape, however, the same rule cannot be applied to members of the Services—particularly airmen and seamen whose nerves are subjected constantly to such abnormal strain, and who, when they obtain leave, should get as far away from war and the sights and sounds of it as possible. A spot that seems to fill the bill completely in this respect is Portmeirion in North Wales, that unique hotel village on its private promontory, which was the subject of a Christopher Hussey article in *COUNTRY LIFE* some years back, and when I visited it a fortnight ago it was filled with grey-flannel-bagged Service men and their wives and families.

I HAD heard so much of this little corner of Italy stowed away on the Welsh coast that I was most interested to see it, for it does not sound possible to impact with any success Mediterranean architecture on a British setting. It has been achieved, however, at Portmeirion because the lovely little valley leading down to the sea lends itself in some elusive manner to the experiment and there is a peculiarity of the climate that has so weathered the various houses of the village that, although every building is less than 20 years of age, the general impression is that one is looking at work of the early eighteenth century.

Portmeirion is not only Italian, for there is a hint also of all the eastern Mediterranean, and certain glimpses remind one of such old towns as Limassol in Cyprus, of Es Salt in Trans-Jordan, and Jaffa, where Simon the Tanner lived.

The most recent addition to Portmeirion is the reconstruction of an Elizabethan ceiling in the Assembly Room, which was removed in pieces from an old house that was being demolished in the vicinity. It is a most remarkable piece of work, for it was carried out by local craftsmen, who have built up from the broken and scattered bits of plaster the whole of this very ornate and unusual ceiling, which is essentially one for a crowded assembly room rather than a lonely bedroom, as some of the terrifying figures in it look as if they were coming down into the room in search of trouble.

## THE WOBURN ABBEY ANIMALS—II

# EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN BISON

Written and Illustrated by  
**FRANCES PITT**

FOR most of us the word "bison" is a magic one. As a result, doubtless, of blood-and-thunder stories read in the days of our youth, it conjures up visions of vast herds of shaggy animals roaming the limitless prairie pursued by wild Indian hunters, while white backwoodsmen of the most adventurous kind fall in and out of marvellous difficulties.

The story of the American bison and its near extermination by the too bloodthirsty white hunters is also called to mind when we see the word, but how seldom do we associate it with our European fauna? Yet at one time bison, very similar to those of the American plains, must have been fairly numerous in many parts of the Continent.

The ancient cave-men of the Stone Age have left us not only bison remains but also extraordinarily realistic sketches, and there were undoubtedly a fair number of bison in the bigger forests up to the time of the Romans. These continued to exist in the forest regions, though in dwindling numbers, through the Middle Ages, their limits becoming gradually more and more circumscribed, until the last few centuries found them confined to Poland, Lithuania and the Caucasus region. Even here they dwindled steadily despite attempts at protection. Before the present war there were some left in Lithuania, but it was feared they were comparatively few.

At this point in my introduction to the bison of Woburn Abbey I must remind readers that the European bison is a species distinct from that across the Atlantic, although it resembles the American "buffalo" in general appearance and at a casual glance it might be mistaken for it. It differs, however, in many respects. It may be described as a better-made beast, having stronger hind quarters than the American bison and not quite such a heavy fore end. The bison from across the Atlantic looks out of drawing, as if designed from a too close-up snapshot taken with a short-focus lens that has distorted the perspective. Our bison is distinctly better drawn. Like the American bison it is a shaggy animal, but its winter coat does not equal that which provided the Red Indians with their buffalo robes, nor has it



TWO EUROPEAN BISON COWS

"I was extremely glad to be on the farther side of the very strong fence . . . those European cows were definitely 'nasty'"

such a pronounced mane. Its horns are set a little more forward than those of the American beast.

As regards size and weight there is said to be little difference between the two species, but when comparing European and American individuals at Woburn it seemed to me that the former were the larger and more impressive, giving an awe-inspiring impression of terrific strength, weight and power, animated by a cunning, even malevolent, intelligence. There is ever a wicked gleam in those small dark eyes that are turned so watchfully upon the spectator. I must confess that when viewing the European bison cows and calves in an extensive paddock at Woburn, and when the ladies advanced with threatening motions of their heads, I was extremely glad to be on the farther side of the very strong fence. I should have hated being in the same field with those cows. Lest this confession be

taken as a mere matter of feminine nerves, let me add that I am well used to cattle of all kinds, and am accustomed not only to go among them, but to handle them, bulls included.

Those European bison cows were definitely "nasty," and I cannot say that the bulls struck me as being of the perfect pet description. I got my snapshot of the old bull through a shutter in the side of a shed where the animals come for food and shelter.

To revert for a moment to the differences between the American and European bison, the latter is a forest-lover, unlike the former with its delight in the great open grassy plains, and at Woburn the European animals are given leaves and tree branches in addition to other food. This is an endeavour to supply the diet they would get when browsing upon trees and bushes in their forest home. They certainly look remarkably well and are in first-





#### THE FINEST EUROPEAN LAND MAMMAL LEFT TO US

These European cows "made a magnificent spectacle as they advanced head on towards me"

class condition on the fare provided for them.

When I first inspected the Woburn herds of bison in April, the animals still had their winter coats and looked quite shaggy. Even at the date of my next visit in July some of the cows still retained part of their thick covering, and one was able to judge what good defence they have against severe winter weather.

I spoke just now of the formidable aspect of these animals, but I must add that they made a magnificent spectacle when a party of cows and younger beasts advanced head on towards me. Once again I was very glad to be on the farther side of a stout fence. From this safe vantage point I could admire them, not only for their own superb sakes, but as representatives of the finest European land

mammal left to us, and a survival from those long-ago primitive days when early man pitted his budding intellect against the forces of Nature and vanquished the great animals.

The European bison as a species, and these beasts as individuals, are precious relics of a past so far obliterated that it is hard to believe that it ever existed. The mammoth has gone, the sabre-toothed tiger has vanished, the great wild ox is known to us only by skulls and bones, and now, as I have already said, we are faced with the question whether the last Lithuanian and Caucasian bison herds can survive the ravages of war. The Woburn European bison acquire increased importance the longer one considers the position. It is fortunate indeed that the herd should be so strong in health and

numbers, consisting as it does of some 40 animals, bulls, cows, young ones and calves.

I had the pleasure in April of seeing three lately born calves, quaint little fellows of a mousy chocolate hue that was most attractive. It is interesting to note that the calves of the American bison are of a bright yellowish red colour. The three European bison calves followed their dams with great agility, and the old ladies guarded them zealously. The quick glances they cast around, and the sharp watch they kept upon our movements, made me realise the truth of the keeper's remark, "The cows can be more awkward than the bulls."

By July these same calves were well grown and quite lusty youngsters.

It seemed a dreadful thing to mention



#### EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN BULLS COMPARED

The European beast (left) is the better made, having stronger hind quarters and not such a heavy fore end. Its horns are set more forward, its mane is less pronounced, and its winter coat is not so fine as that of its American cousin





#### TWO EUROPEAN COWS WITH YOUNG CALVES

These calves are of a mousy-chocolate colour, while the American calves are of a bright yellowish red

"beef" when staring at such valuable animals, but the query was put and answered. I was assured that a sirloin of bison is a most excellent joint. It had been sampled when a superfluous young bull of two had to be "liquidated," so I looked at the younger cattle with interest, but felt it was sad to think of slaying even superfluous males.

As I have already indicated, the European bison is a much better-shaped animal from the beef standpoint than the American, the hind quarters and back of which taper off so remarkably. I was particularly struck by the conformation of the old bull at the head of the American herd. His fore-hand was tremendous, his growth of wool and hair added much to the

massiveness of his head and crest, he had a most impressive beard and shaggy plus-fours about his legs, but his hind quarters dropped away. Such make and shape do not give an appearance of agility and pace, but the keeper assured me that appearance in his case was particularly deceptive, and that this bull could gallop as fast as any ordinary horse.

The American herd made a very fine display as I saw it in an extensive section of the park. The bison roamed over a wide, open, grassy space that gave the illusion that you were having a glimpse of their prairie home. The summer sun poured down with fierce glare, the air danced and quivered, and the dark animals grazing in the sunshine seemed to be doubled

and multiplied and to become those countless hordes that roamed the limitless prairies of the Wild West before the white man decimated them.

A little cool breeze swept across the view, stilled for a moment the hot quivering air and dispersed the vision, but the reality left behind was a noble sight, especially as the stately beasts came nearer and approached closely the enclosing fence. I must confess once again that, as in the case of the European bison, I viewed the strength of the intervening railings with pleasure and appreciation. There was a nasty look in more than one of those quick dark eyes that stared upon us, and I would not have cared to take any liberties with their owners.



#### AN AMERICAN COW AND BULL

The characteristic "plus four" leg coverings are here clearly seen. Although the American bull's appearance does not suggest agility, he can gallop as fast as any ordinary horse

# CHANGING LAKELAND

By W. A. POUCHER

**A** FEW years ago Mardale was a quiet, secluded valley on the eastern borders of Lakeland with a small lake at its northern end in the direction of Bampton. The narrow, undulating road skirted the western shore of Hawes Water and, after passing the small church with its yews, ended at the well-known Dun Bull Hotel. This was the meeting-place of numerous tracks over the hills coming from Swindale by the old Corpse road, by the pass over Goe Scarth from Long Sleddale, by Nan Field Pass from Kentmere, and by numerous and diverse ways over the High Street Range with its Roman road, from Ambleside, Patterdale and Ullswater.

While the tracks over the hills remain, unhappily the old Mardale road with its church and inn are no more, for a few years ago the Manchester Corporation Waterworks acquired the catchment rivets of the hills surrounding Hawes Water and they began the construction of a large dam at the foot of the valley. This necessitated the building of a new road on the eastern slopes of the valley at a much higher level than the old one, together with the erection of a new hotel about half way along the new lake.

In a number of visits to Mardale during recent years I have noted the gradual changes, but, since the completion of the dam last year, the rising waters of the new lake are altering the scene to a noticeable degree. I was informed locally that the final level will be some 100ft. above the old one and that this summer 40ft. of this total had already been reached.

I took the second picture from a bend in the new road from which one gets the first glimpse of the rising waters covering Mardale Green. The remains of the old vicarage are just visible below the trees in the centre. I then walked round to the site of the old church. I took the first photograph to the west of the vicarage site, which can be seen on the left with Hob Gill in the hazy background.

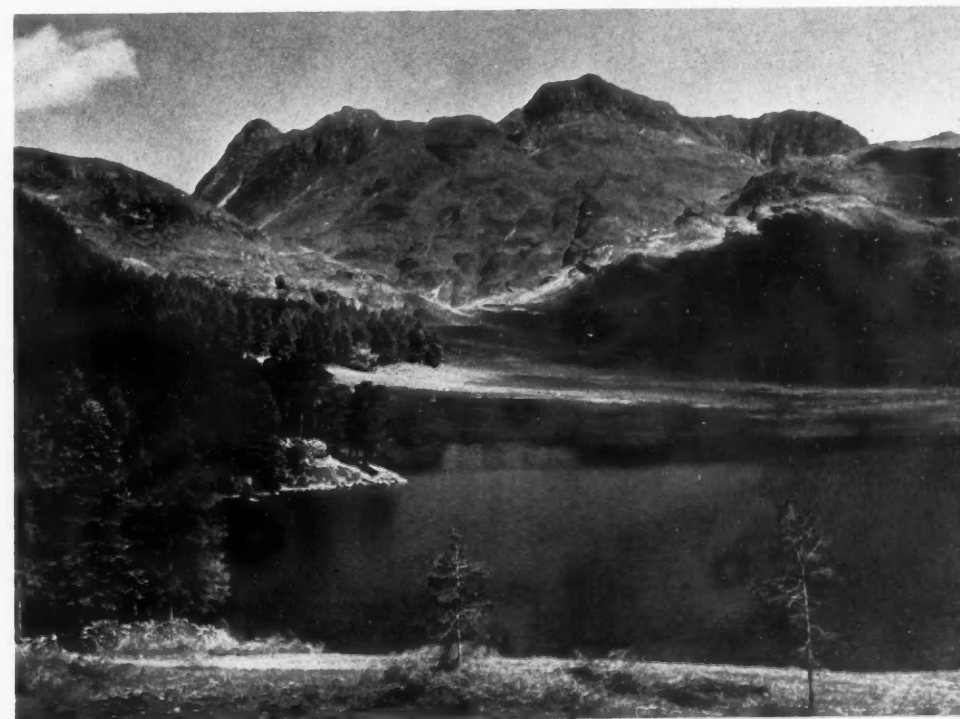
In the course of my Lakeland ramble I was lucky enough to visit Blea Tarn, Langdale, on a beautiful sunny day when the rhododendrons were looking at their best. Approaching the small lake beyond "Solitary," I at once noticed a difference in the landscape, and in fact the friends who accompanied me said they did not recognise the place.

A little nearer we were able to account for the change, for many of the lovely trees are being removed owing to the exigencies of the war. The third photograph shows some of the change. Previously the foreground was a belt of trees and the tarn was not visible from this viewpoint. The Langdale Pikes occupy the background with Harrison Stickle in the centre, Pike o' Stickle on the left and the rock climbers' playground, Pavey Ark, on the right.

(Top) DISAPPEARING MARDALE GREEN. Remains of the vicarage are in the centre, and Hob Gill is in the background

(Centre) THE RISING WATERS SEEN FROM THE NEW ROAD

(Bottom) BLEA TARN AND THE LANGDALE PIKES IN THE BACKGROUND. Trees have been removed from the side of the tarn in the foreground





# BONINGTON AND THE ROMANTIC SCHOOL

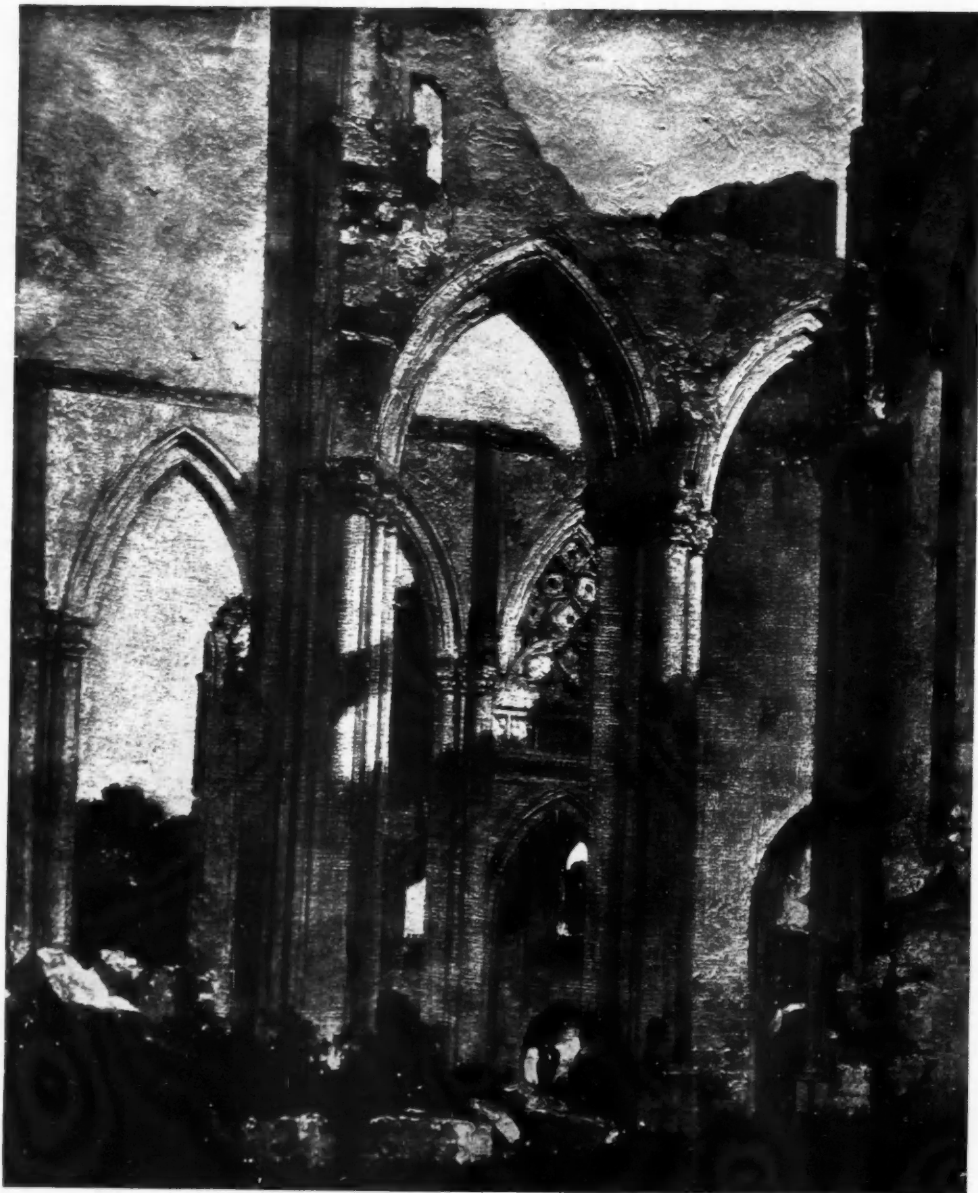
By RALPH EDWARDS

THE "English Painter" series, of which the first two volumes have now appeared, seeks belatedly to remedy a scandalous neglect, and to do for English painting at last what has long ago been done for every considerable Continental school. We are promised "thorough and exact scholarship," instead of vague generalisations and the guesses at truth which are too characteristic of the literature devoted to our national art. It is an essential part of the plan that a biographical and critical Introduction should be followed by an annotated catalogue of authentic works; and that everything of real consequence should be illustrated. The standard of production in present conditions deserves the warmest praise, but it must be allowed that in Mr. Andrew Shirley's *Bonington* (Kegan Paul, 31s. 6d.), the high aims of the series have not been fully realised.

To the brief particulars of Bonington's life recorded by his earlier biographers, the author has made no addition of importance, though he has indulged somewhat freely in reinterpretation and conjecture. Brief and brilliant, what we know of the artist's career is entirely appropriate to a Romantic painter and makes the growth of a legend almost inevitable. For him there is no tedious apprenticeship or hope deferred. He goes to Paris while still in his teens, serenely ignores the sacred standards of the classical school, shares a studio with one of the brightest stars of the new age, joins a famous *atelier*, is hailed as a genius by its distinguished head, leaps into fame, pays



THE PARTERRE D'EAU, VERSAILLES (Louvre)



ABBEY OF ST. BERTIN, ST. OMER (City Art Gallery, Nottingham)

a visit to Italy, returns to find buyers avid for all he can supply—and dies of consumption at 25. There is a prodigious posthumous vogue, and the market is inundated with counterfeits and imitations.

By his more fervid admirers this wonderful youth is supposed to have influenced the whole development of modern painting. His works in the Salon of 1824, at which the Barbizon school was born, were enthusiastically received, like those of Constable, and therefore he is credited with having helped to achieve a revolution. Mr. Shirley accepts this view, seeing in him "the connecting piece in the puzzle of the relation between the French and English schools of the early nineteenth century"; but he admits that Constable and Delacroix were the brains of the movement, and that by the middle of the century Bonington's influence had faded out. That influence derived from the powerful fascination his brilliance and skill exercised on his contemporaries, and expressed itself largely in the emulation of tricks of style. Corot and Delacroix came for a brief time under his spell, to say nothing of a host of direct imitators.

Bonington charms at a glance, and indeed he is one of the most captivating of artists. He painted with effortless ease, had a marvellously alert eye and, as Mr. Shirley remarks, "an exquisite sensitiveness to colour and light." His landscapes and seascapes are all space and air, with towering cloudy skies and horizons stretching away to infinity: he had a fine grasp of recession and saw all things in terms of rhythmical pattern. As for the historical *genre* which he turned to late in life, though antipathetic to our present taste, it is always remarkable for dramatic quality and the extraordinary skill with which the figures are related. His best drawings are dazzling performances—rare harmonies of colour, subtle technique and vivid in line.

Yet when all has been said, Bonington is not the kind of artist whose example is calculated to inspire a great movement. There is something faintly cloying, even meretricious, in his gift. One becomes more and more conscious of a certain monotony, and of charm and accomplishment doing duty for rarer gifts. For



sedulously exploited his matchless facility until it degenerated into sleight of hand, and there is no real passion in his observation of nature. What he lacked most conspicuously was intellectual power. Mr. Shirley finds the climax of his art in three landscapes of 1826: they are enchanting things, but hardly great pictures by the standards of the main European tradition. Probably on the whole Bonington's reputation has suffered little by his early death.

What is genuine Bonington still remains a vexed question. Mr. Shirley has made an attempt—it cannot be pronounced a successful one—to establish a preliminary canon on a chronological basis. There are about 200 illustrations, arranged without reference to the catalogue and without indication of the medium employed. The plates represent every phase of the painter's activity, but Mme. Paul Personnier's famous silvery *Coast Scene* is an extraordinary omission, and there are a number of attributions which will not command assent. To assign to their respective years indisputable works produced during a bare decade of feverish activity would be a hazardous enterprise at best: it is doomed to failure when the examples chosen to mark transitional phases in style are themselves highly debatable. Bonington, says Mr. Shirley, had "a protean variety in his imagination": he was indeed an amazing artistic chameleon if portraits so utterly disparate in style as those reproduced here may rightly be included among his few attempts in that genre.



HENRI IV AND THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR (Wallace Collection)

## LONDON IN PICTURES

WHEN Sir Kenneth Clark opened the new series of War Pictures at the National Gallery on October 3, he said that one of the criticisms made about the work of the committee was that the artists were not commissioned to make sufficient records. He explained that mere records were not always works of art. It is in fact far more important to get the artist's interpretation, and in many cases it is best to let him select the subject that moves him most. Thus the most significant work in the exhibition, the paintings of ruin and desolation by Graham Sutherland, are subjects not likely to have been discovered by a selection committee. Yet the artist has seen strange forms full of meaning in twisted girders and charred bales of paper. Stanley Spencer, too, has discovered a special fascination in the shipbuilding industry, and his long narrow panel, continuing the series he had already begun, illustrates the strange poses and contortions of men amid the curved sheets of metal they are engaged in riveting. John Piper has painted an impressive interior of the damaged House of Commons, and many of the ruined City churches have been recorded more or less imaginatively by various artists.

As more pictures are acquired for the collection, those previously exhibited at the National Gallery are sent on tour and many have already been shown in America, Canada and in various provincial towns, while others are to be sent to Australia, New Zealand and the West Indies. The damage to famous buildings in London has certainly aroused fresh interest in them and in many ways it is a relief to turn from the war pictures to a collection of early English water-colours, many of them topographical, on view at Walker's Galleries, and to the very charming paintings of Chelsea and various country houses by Susan Zileri in the Cotman Room at the same galleries. "Carlyle's House," with the pear tree he planted in blossom, is particularly characteristic of a quiet London back garden. There are several pictures of the Royal Hospital, the Duke of York's, old Chelsea shops, and some charming interiors and still-life compositions. At the Fine Art Gallery there are also some old water colours and modern ones of London after the raids, and at the Redfern Gallery the collection of paintings formed by the late Maurice Ingram is on view.

As a parallel to the Sickert Exhibition, still open at the National Gallery, there is a collection of his etchings at the Leicester Galleries, and these show not so much the buildings as the spirit of old London—much of it gone for ever. The music-hall scenes are rich in tone, others



FEMME DE LETTRES. ETCHING BY W. R. SICKERT  
Leicester Galleries



CARLYLE'S GARDEN, CHELSEA.  
BY SUSAN ZILERI. Walker's Galleries

are mere outline indications, as the one of hackney coaches entitled "Barnett's veterans: 'They also serve.'" One of the earliest etchings is a portrait of Mr. D'Oyly Carte, "The Acting Manager," dated 1884, and one of the latest is a caricature of the late Roger Fry entitled "Vision, Volume and Recession." This brings us to modern "vision" as expressed in the paintings by Frances Hodgkins, very colourful, very decorative and remotely related to reality.

As a result of the war, art is finding its way more and more within the reach of the man in the street. If artists cannot entice the public to visit exhibitions they very sensibly put their exhibitions where the public cannot help seeing them. Last winter some attempts were made at exhibiting pictures in shelters, and now the International Group of artists have arranged some pictures, mostly war subjects, in Charing Cross Underground Station. One of the most appealing of these shows an old lady feeding stray cats amid bombed houses, and in another a brown tabby is seen stepping its way along a ruined wall. Life goes on and so does Art, with infinite powers of adapting herself to new conditions. M.C.

## GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND—V

## THE FUTURE OF COUNTRY HOUSES

By W. A. FORSYTH AND CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

*For economic and social reasons the survival of the large country house as a private residence after the war seems unlikely. But the best of them can, and should be preserved under the National Trust Scheme. Other uses are also foreshadowed. And details and examples are given of country houses converted into "service flats."*

LORD LOTHIAN, speaking to the National Trust on the scheme originally initiated by him for the preservation of country houses, quoted Mr. Churchill's remark that the history of England is to a great extent the history of four or five hundred families, whose homes are for the most part still in existence and intact. But he believed that hardly any of these historic homes would be lived in by the families who created them, within a generation.

His prophecy looks like being already fulfilled. It seems inconceivable that, except in exceptional circumstances or where advantage is taken of the scheme by which endowed properties with their contents can be made over to the National Trust and their owners remain as life tenants, the great country houses can survive as a living entity. Yet it is generally recognised that the country would be immeasurably poorer in historic and artistic richness were these lovely homes dismantled, turned into barracks or soulless institutions, or demolished for the meagre value of their materials, even if the web of personal loyalties implicit in their estates is not dissolved. Public acquisition, as is shown by the case of Montacute, is no solution: the great pile stands gaunt. A use must be found for them. Their contents, and the aura of habitation by people in sympathy with them, are essential to their appreciation, as Lord Lothian recognised in the terms of his bequest of his own home to the National Trust. It is to be hoped, therefore, that many heirs to these heritages of national no less than ancestral beauty will find it possible to preserve the substance and spirit of their homes by the sacrifice of titular ownership in this way. After all, their

forebears held their fiefs of the King. It is no dishonour to hold them now of the community, represented by the National Trust.

But there are many country houses, enriched by the love and toil of generations, which are ineligible for this form of preservation, whether by lack of adequate endowment, historic or architectural importance, the loss of which would be none the less deplorable. If only for their solid construction and gracious settings they go to make up Britain at her best and are worth an effort to preserve. It is already possible to see how, in the new pattern of life that is emerging, a use can appropriately be found for all, or most, of them. Numerous country houses are temporarily occupied by departments of business concerns. A decision by the Government on whether decentralisation is to be encouraged after the war could well lead to some of these "evacuations" becoming permanent, perhaps with small houses for the staffs built in the park or along the approach. Other houses will probably be acquired by such concerns for holiday clubs, perhaps combined with storage or certain other departments.

Country clubs is another use, already experimented with before the war and likely to be developed. Lord Esher has recently envisaged (*Fortnightly Review*, September, 1941) the country-house club forming the nucleus of a residential community:

Divorced from agriculture its woods and hills in the hands of the National Trust, the house and the park could be laid out along the lines of a club, the members of which would use the big house and its gardens for tennis, bathing, dancing, and the entertainment of week-end guests. In addition to these amenities, membership would give the right to build a small house in the park. These houses would be built as part of a design suitable to the

general character of the land, and treating the park more or less on the lines of a village green. By such a plan the country house, and possibly its pictures and furniture, could finance itself, escape the slow but certain strangulation of taxation, and fill a different but not undignified place in the new life.

After the last war several large country houses became public schools. The future of "the old school tie" may be in doubt, but the spacious historic background made available to education, in central or secondary schools or what not, by the country-house setting is not. Some country houses are already youth hostels. The formation of national parks and holiday camps is likely to stimulate this demand, though these uses are not the most appropriate for historic structures.

There remains what is likely to be a highly popular and sensible use for country houses of the less historic order: for communal use as flats. As this raises practical problems of wide interest which, though often canvassed, have not, to our knowledge, been hitherto published in any detail, the remainder of this article may well be devoted to a review of the subject with some practical notes.

## CONVERSION TO FLATS

Country houses obviously vary very widely in their design and accommodation; yet many lend themselves to a scheme of converted unfurnished flats or suites by comparatively simple means. It is found, however, that this adaptation must generally take the form of "service" rather than of "self-contained" flats. The type of house suitable for conversion—and it is the rule rather than the exception—has several large rooms, a main staircase, and a hall on the ground floor. These portions would be used in common by all the tenants. One large room becomes the dining-hall and contains separate tables, while other rooms are set apart for library, recreation or entertainment. The kitchen and other offices need to be, and usually are, extensive, although perhaps not well equipped for their modern purposes. The service staircase can be used both by staff and by upper tenants and it may be adjacent to a luggage lift. All these departments in combined use will be furnished by the owners.

The ground-floor rooms are sometimes difficult to adjust to the requirements of ordinary suites; but a judicious division of rooms may give sufficient accommodation for elderly people who wish to avoid stairs. For this type there is often an external side door with access to a garden room. Somewhere on this floor, convenient both to the main entrance and to the staff quarters, must be found an office or sitting-room for the management. This need not occupy a prominent position, but should be accessible to both private and staff quarters, convenient also for supervision. Cloak-rooms etc., are useful for visitors and for storing games apparatus. A loggia offers great advantages and can often be contrived by a simple alteration.

On the upper floors a greater number of rooms is usually available and there is less difficulty in sorting out what are to be sitting-rooms, bedrooms and so forth.

Each flat will usually be required to provide a sitting-room, two, three or four



THE GREAT HOUSE AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL: BLENHEIM PALACE  
TEMPORARILY ACCOMMODATING MALVERN COLLEGE  
After the last war Stowe, Bryanston, Canford, Westonbirt, and other mansions became schools.  
The same process may be witnessed again





**A COUNTRY HOUSE AS NUCLEUS OF A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY. PORTMEIRION, NORTH WALES**

In this case the community is a hotel: but the country house might be a club conferring on its members the right to build small houses in the park, their design carefully controlled



**STAUNTON HAROLD, AN HISTORIC HOUSE THE FUTURE OF WHICH IS IN DOUBT**

Failing endowment as a National Trust property, and under favourable conditions, such houses may be converted into flats, thereby becoming economically self-supporting and their principal features safeguarded



bedrooms with running water, and a bathroom. Often an attic will provide space for other flats or rooms for staff, the management and visiting servants.

Alternate means of escape in case of fire has, of course, to receive attention. It is found by experience, however, that the shutting off or disconnecting of each flat is not difficult to arrange.

Every service flat should, if possible, comprise the following: A small electrically equipped kitchenette, containing a refrigerator, an airing cupboard, a house telephone, a fire-escape appliance, a box-room and some storage or cupboard space.

The principal adaptation will be one of sanitation. As a rule country houses contain three or four bathrooms—frequently less. It thus becomes necessary to install new baths and other equipment for each suite; to extend the hot and cold water services, and to add a few drain connections. The heating system may well require a larger or additional

will vary according to the planning of the house to be converted.

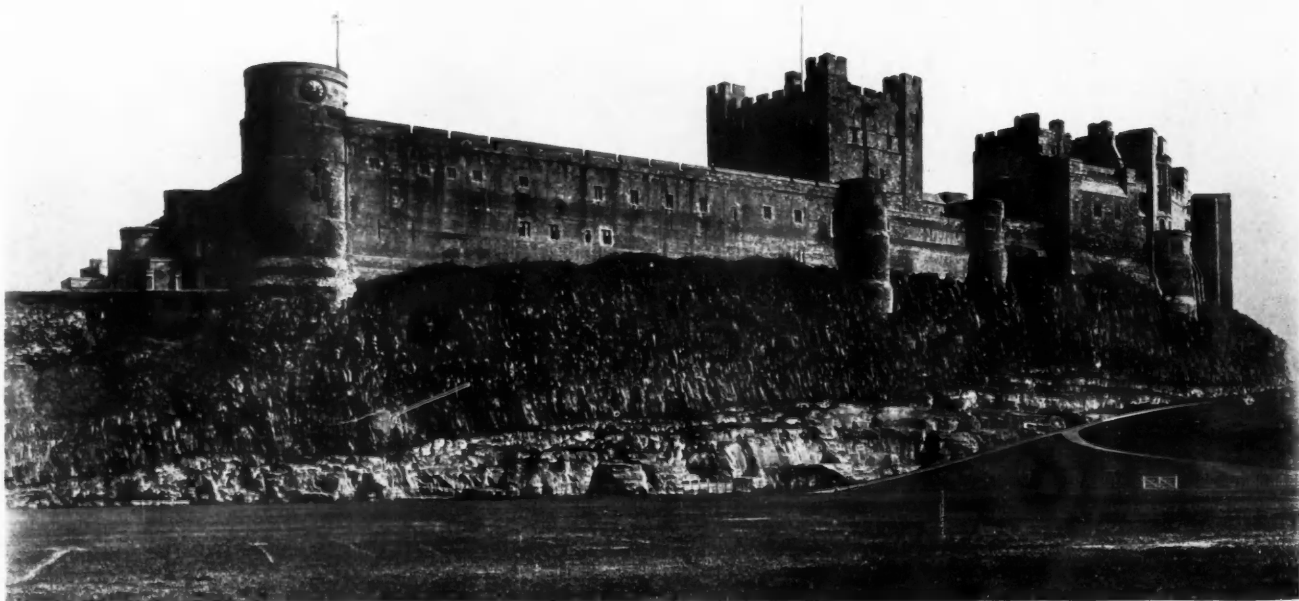
Rentals are based upon interest on capital, the "overheads," and running costs. In modern blocks of flats investment is secured mainly from adequate numbers of tenancies in each group. Each country house varies in its dimensions and accommodation and therefore in its possibilities for a scheme as is here outlined.

If the adaptation is fairly simple and within the ordinary limitations of the house, then it is reasonably possible to meet all running expenditure on the staff, the outgoings, and the interest on the cost of structural conversion and maintenance. Although there may sometimes be but moderate profit to the owner, he will be able to retain a good house which he could not otherwise sell or keep up. The demand for such homes is likely to be large from many people who have been dispossessed of their own houses or are in search of retired comfort

The main body includes the large principal rooms used in common—the hall, dining-room, library, billiards room, and the main staircase. Additional stairs facilitate the approach to, and the separation of, the suites, each of which has its own front door. On the roof level, however, and in order to utilise space which would otherwise be wasted, the entrances to some of the flats are masked by curtains. There is a walled forecourt with a gate-house converted into a "self-contained" flat. This, however, is an exceptional case.

The house is pleasantly placed in a park which, together with its gardens and tennis courts, gives it a definite attraction for the tenants. The situation, in a good sporting part of the county, also adds to its value.

Escrick Park, which was converted into self-contained service flats in 1930, is a large eighteenth-century house in Yorkshire and has a central group of three storeys with



**BAMBURGH CASTLE ON THE NORTHUMBERLAND COAST**  
An ancient stronghold which has been successfully converted into flats

boiler, together with some improvement in the flues. Some form of heating is essential in all rooms, since many, having been subdivided, will not have fireplaces.

Immediately following the end of the war it seems reasonable to suppose that work of reconditioning and adaptation such as this will be permitted when other building operations are restricted. They would have the added advantage of finding employment for much skilled labour and the use of materials not in general demand for other forms of re-housing. The structural alterations involved cannot be said to be disproportionate to the result, when housing, on an average, 30 to 40 people in addition to the management and staff.

Frequently there is a group of out-buildings suitable for garages, workshop, cycle store, studio, kennels and perhaps a small stable and laundry. Cottages are usually available for the garden staff, chauffeurs and estate workmen. Naturally the garden, park or other setting of such houses is one of the chief attractions of the converted country house. If there is an open-air swimming pool it is sure to be an added attraction.

Some initial outlay is inevitable in making the structural changes and installing the necessary equipment. Such expenditure

on a modest scale and free from domestic cares.

Any scheme of conversion to "self-contained" flats is, as a rule, impossible to apply to the average country house. There are occasions, however, when by reason of numerous entrances and staircases and of detached wings, these "self-contained" tenancies can be schemed. Bamburgh Castle is such an example where dwellings of this kind have been provided for a good many years.

## TWO EXAMPLES

The following description of two converted houses are interesting examples of "service flat" adaptations.

A scheme started in Norfolk in 1932 has to-day a waiting list of applicants for suites. The house is a three-storeyed building originally planned in the sixteenth century to an "E" form but very largely re-built and restored in the nineteenth century. This type of plan lends itself well to adaptation to service flats. The projecting wings of three floors adapt themselves especially to this purpose. There are 12 suites in all—some large and some quite small. Such variation in size gives flexibility to the scheme which is not obtainable in large modern blocks of flats.

side blocks and wings of two floors. The out-buildings are unusually extensive, with large stables, coach-houses, staff quarters with offices, and a capacious riding-school. The surrounding gardens, the cricket ground and park are very attractive and add materially to the dignified setting of the mansion. There are hard tennis courts and a squash racquets court.

Eleven self-contained suites of varying accommodation are contrived within the house, while numbers of single rooms are provided in a side wing. Flats generally consist of one sitting-room, one, two or three bedrooms, bathroom, etc. The single rooms, if not separately let, are found most useful for tenants' friends. Meals are served in a large dining-room, each flat having its own table. There is a dance room and an especially fine library. These rooms, used in common by the occupants, are furnished by the owners, but all other inhabited rooms are equipped by the tenants.

Cloak-rooms and a waiting-room for visitors are included. The main staircase, hall and landing are, fortunately, large so that access to the flats is convenient. A housemaids' cupboard is arranged on each floor. Subsidiary staircases exist partly for service requirements and for approaching the upper levels of flats. The kitchen and the

usual offices of a country house are conveniently placed and are unusually spacious. There is an office and a sitting-room for the manageress conveniently accessible for the tenants. The main business of the premises is, however, conducted from the estate office.

The stables are now used as garages, and all are heated. There is a large car-wash with automatic washing plant controlling the consumption and pressure of water. Rentals are forthcoming from the garages and some income accrues from the converted squash racquets court. The riding-school is an unusual feature inherited from the early nineteenth century. Together with some of the lesser outbuildings, it has been skilfully put to the useful purposes of a large laundry, not only for the requirements of the service flats but extensive enough to meet the needs of the neighbourhood. It is, in fact, an adjunct to the flats, developed also as an independent and lucrative concern.

It is found from experience that the larger the venture—up to a point—the more likely will success be assured, as overhead charges are spread over a larger turn-over. The comforts and facilities offered by the converted house are very quickly appreciated and soon become known. To secure and retain the domestic staff, good wages are paid and opportunities for recreation provided. It is also fortunate that York is less than six miles away to which a 'bus service gives easy access.

#### A SPECIMEN PLAN

To illustrate the principle of conversion as here instanced, the accompanying plans indicate a structural adaptation of a typical country house, selected at random. They are intended to convey a practical impression of what is required in rendering it suitable to the requirements of country service flats, and to indicate the type of average accommodation which is made possible by the structural conditions of the building and to convey an idea of the proportions of the common rooms and domestic offices in relation to the service suites.

In this instance the dividing of the larger rooms, together with the adaptation of bedrooms to provide an ordinary service



ESCRICK PARK, YORK. A COUNTRY HOUSE NOW CONTAINING FLATS

flat containing a sitting-room, one, two or three bedrooms, is not difficult. The number of flats, however, is controlled by the capacity of the dining-room and other space used in common by the tenants. The staircases are well placed for access to the various tenancies without involving heavy structural alteration.

This particular house possesses good domestic offices although not entirely convenient.

The plans will serve to show another important aspect of the scheme. There must be a definite calculation both of outlay and revenue, and this can only have favourable prospects if the proportion of tenancies to the adapted house is sufficiently large.

This house has moderate architectural claims as an example of late eighteenth-century design. Its exterior is scarcely affected by the suggested changes save for the appearance of some pipes. That, however, is a small point compared with the prospect of guaranteeing its preservation and upkeep by its conversion to the purposes of service flats if ever it becomes empty.

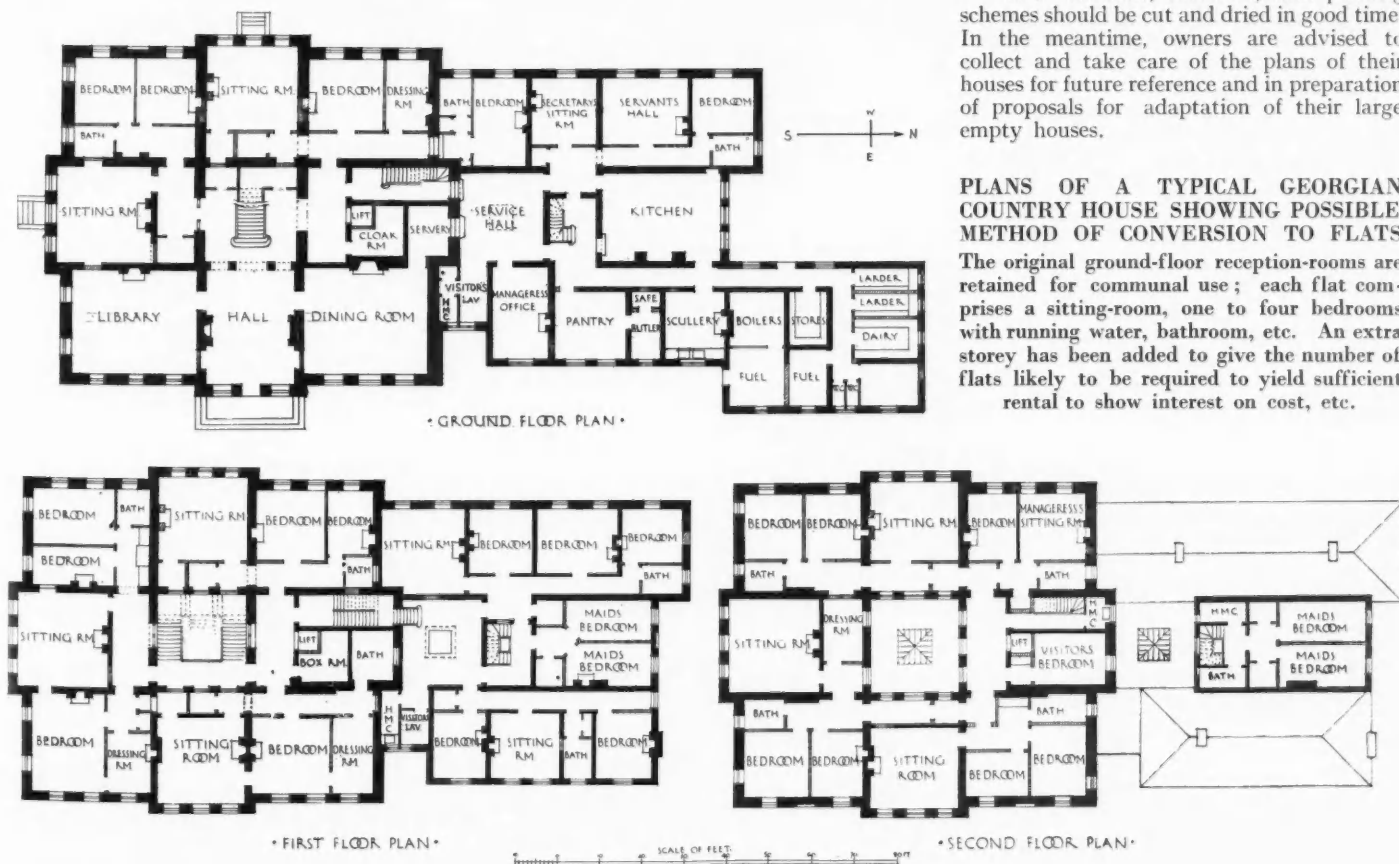
It is probable that other owners may have considered the problem of adapting large houses to such uses as this. In the first place, it is essential that the geographical situation should be satisfactory and that the district itself is attractive in order to ensure a suitable *dientèle*. Proximity to a manufacturing locality or an aerodrome should, on account of noises, be avoided. Then the house itself must be one which, in proportion to its accommodation, is reasonably convenient and big enough to adapt. The state of repair is also a governing factor, for many a scheme will be crippled financially if great outlay is required on renovations before any adaptation is begun.

When normal conditions in the country return there will be, as already indicated, a state of confusion in the matter of priority in re-housing. Country houses, damaged by enemy action, will possibly receive prior consideration because the amount of building material required will be relatively small and, what is most likely, much of those materials may have been discarded from other places.

It is desirable, therefore, that pending schemes should be cut and dried in good time. In the meantime, owners are advised to collect and take care of the plans of their houses for future reference and in preparation of proposals for adaptation of their large empty houses.

#### PLANS OF A TYPICAL GEORGIAN COUNTRY HOUSE SHOWING POSSIBLE METHOD OF CONVERSION TO FLATS

The original ground-floor reception-rooms are retained for communal use; each flat comprises a sitting-room, one to four bedrooms with running water, bathroom, etc. An extra storey has been added to give the number of flats likely to be required to yield sufficient rental to show interest on cost, etc.





# WITH A CAMERA ON RATHLIN

By J. ARNOLD BENINGTON

**F**IFTEEN years ago I paid my first visit to Rathlin, the beautiful island to the north of County Antrim. I had heard and read that this sparsely inhabited place was a wonderful sea-bird resort.

One summer evening I crossed without incident the channel known as Slough-na-morra, or "hollow of the sea," which often keeps visitors storm-bound for days or even weeks. I landed at the foot of a cliff on the west of the island, with my tent, camera and kit. Near by was the rusty hull of a wreck that had been smashed in a storm years before. A narrow winding path led upwards, and the fishermen who put me ashore told me to follow it to a cottage half a mile from the cliff-top.

When at last I reached the top I saw no sign of a cottage, so I set to work to pitch my tent before the rising mist made work impossible. During this operation a pair of ravens appeared close to me, and nearly thirty coughs, rarest of the crow family, circled and screeched overhead. As soon as I had pitched my tent I set off to find that cottage. The fishermen had said it was near at hand, but in Ireland that

in the lighthouse. Few people, I think, would have taken the trouble to tramp a mile over bleak hill-tops in the pouring rain for a complete stranger.

That was a night to be long remembered. Half way down and apparently stuck on to the side of the cliff was the light, and I stared in fascination at the beam playing on the rows of sea birds sitting on their nests within a few feet of me. Inside, one of the keepers produced a violin and played many Irish airs. And so the night passed—supper, music and talk, the natural sequence of events in almost every Irish cottage.

Next morning I was telling a farmer about my experience in the ruined house. He exclaimed: "Did ye not know the place was haunted? Man! I wouldn't take five pounds and spend a night in it."

I became known as the man who had slept a night in the haunted house. I did not think it necessary to reveal that I did not sleep a wink.

Since then I have spent several happy holidays on the enchanted island. My latest visit was last year, when with two friends I tramped round familiar headlands and explored less known caves and cliffs.

One day at the top of the grand west cliffs, a red-headed young Irishman approached with a dog. He was the boy I had first seen while pitching my tent, fifteen years ago. One young fellow at least was content to remain and work in this lonely and lovable spot. The population is steadily decreasing, as many young people have left. Some have gone to

the Colonies, others have been attracted by the towns. For many reasons life on the island is hard. Bad storms make the arrival of the mail and supply boats very irregular, especially in winter and spring. Roads are almost non-existent, social amenities are few, and there are practically no modern conveniences. An excessive number of rabbits threatens to eat every green thing the farmer grows and dogs are chained in the wheatfields all night to scare the rabbits by their barking.

There is no real turf on the island, but



THE SEA PARROT, A CLEVER FISHERMAN, BREEDS BY THE THOUSAND ON RATHLIN

may mean anything from 100yds. to several miles!

Topping a small hill, I came upon a red-headed Irish boy, who, seeing me appear out of the mist, as it were from nowhere, perhaps mistook me for a leprechaun, or one of the "wee folk," and almost decided to run away. In a few minutes, however, he realised that I was only human and led me to his father's cottage. This was a tiny place where prosperity was certainly not one of the obvious features; yet the inhabitants greeted me almost like a long-lost friend and gave me freely of their slender stock of provisions.

On this visit I had only a few days to spare, and I spent most of the time prowling round the island, st. lking and photographing birds.

One of the three lighthouses stands on a jumble of ragged rocks scarcely above high-water mark, and here I spent many hours with the hospitable keepers, one of whom was keenly interested in birds. This man spent much of his leisure time exploring impossible-looking cliffs on a single rope, and at the time of my visit he was trying to tame three young falcons which he had taken from an eyrie weeks before.

When a bad storm blew up I moved my tent and belongings to a half-ruined cottage with a leaky roof. The howling of the wind down the chimney and through the broken doorway and unglazed windows made sleep impossible, and I lay on my hammock thinking of ghost and banshee stories. About midnight a hollow knocking on the door-post startled me into attention, but it was only the friendly lighthouse-keepers, who had come to rescue me from the storm and to offer me a dry bed



THE WEST CLIFFS WHICH RISE TO 400ft.



MIRROR O' THE MIST, ONE OF THE ISLAND'S BEAUTIFUL TARNs



in many places the inhabitants burn sods instead. It is a common sight to see islanders, with turf-creels on their backs, tramping home across the hill with loads of sods. In a hot fire these sods act well as fuel, but if the fire has been allowed to burn low they are of little use. On one occasion after a very wet day spent stalking eider duck and peregrine falcons, I found only damp sods in the house, so the task of lighting the fire was accomplished only by the aid of cordite salvaged from a destroyer which had run aground in the bay years before.

One day during my last visit we were watching birds from the top of the west cliffs and came upon one of the keepers working at his motor cycle.

We talked about birds, and I mentioned a wounded wild goose that I had seen and photographed on Rathlin eleven years



THIS BARNACLE GOOSE SURVIVED THE BREAKING OF A WING FOR YEARS

before. At this a crofter looked up. "Sure," says he, "the same man is here, and has the goose yet: it is eighteen years old now!" Next day I went to see it, and sure enough there it was with the farmyard geese, apparently quite well, but its broken wing had not mended well enough to enable it to fly.

I could tell many more tales of this enchanted island—of stalking birds through the heather along the cliff-tops; of awkward rock climbs in stocking feet to chough breeding-holes; of clear cold days at Easter, spent shivering in a rusty wreck, waiting to photograph eider; and of other days when rain and mist made outdoor work unpleasant, and I sat with the islanders round a huge turf fire while many old tales were retold, of shipwrecks and thrilling rescues by rocket and breeches-buoy.

## A BOOM IN BLOODSTOCK

### RACING AND SALES AT NEWMARKET

SAVE to say that Mr. Abelson's five-year-old gelding Rue de la Paix, who was ridden by Carey and trained by George Beeby, won the Cambridgeshire and that His Majesty the King's Sun Chariot, whose story will be the feature of a near-at-hand article, was successful in the Middle Park Stakes which is popularly regarded as the Two-Year-Old Derby, there is little to write about the racing at the Newmarket Second October Meeting. It fades into insignificance beside the vast importance of the bloodstock auction which took place, and by its extraordinary success not only proved the buoyant condition of the thoroughbred market but well illustrated the mountain-high morale of one small but very representative section of the British community.

Looked back at now that it is all over, it seems incredible that in these times of stress with its concomitant high and, apparently, limitless taxation, increased cost of living, difficulties of transport, and all the other horrors or inconveniences associated with war, a mare who was bought for 2,000gs. less than three years ago should now change hands at 14,000gs.

Almost as incredible it seems that the "death-sale" of the late Lord Furness's stud was not, as might generally be expected, the sole feature of the auction, but that other vendors obtained as much and in some cases more for their properties than they would have done at Doncaster in pre-war years and that, in place of being a vendor of practically everything he possessed in the bloodstock line, including two Derby winners, the Aga Khan returned to the fold as a buyer. Is it any wonder that the results of the auction, or some of them, were broadcast to every country in the world in its own language? Is it surprising that one felt a little proud at being connected with such a body of men and such an industry.

The sale of the late Lord Furness's stud was, naturally, the big attraction, as, since the first runners appeared from it in 1922, the winners of 205½ flat-races, including three classics of £130,533, have been bred there, and here their blood-lines and others of equal merit were placed at the disposal of buyers. The result was that 14 mares made 25,600gs., 9 foals were sold for 5,405gs., 9 unbroken three-year-olds who had been mated for the first time fetched 6,450gs., 4 unbroken two-year-old fillies realised 2,390gs., and 6 yearlings between them added 8,950gs. to the aggregate.

To go into a little more detail, Carpet Slipper was the "star turn" among the mares and for that matter in the sale. An 11-year-old Phalaris

mare from a daughter of Simon Square, she is already the dam of the One Thousand Guineas and Oaks winner Godiva and of Windsor Slipper who is reputed to be the best two-year-old in Ireland and now appears to be safely in foal to Godiva's sire Hyperion. Sir Alfred Butt started the bidding for her with an offer of 4,000gs., but was then joined in competition by Mr. Collins and agents for the Aga Khan and Miss Dorothy Paget, with the result that she was run up in bids of 100gs. until, within

**The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply owing to war conditions are advertised in COUNTRY LIFE should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily available for export**

the space of five minutes, she had reached 14,000gs.—the third highest price ever made for a mare at public auction—and was knocked down to Mr. Collins who was buying on behalf of Mr. Joseph McGrath of the Brownstown Stud in Ireland. The agent of the Aga Khan

was the under-bidder. At any time this would have been a purchase to record, but more were to come, as at 3,500gs. Mr. T. Hall, the Tadcaster trainer, took the 10-year-old Dark Legend mare Rosy Legend who is the dam of The Pelican and other winners and looks in foal to Nearco; at 3,000gs. Mr. Collins, again buying for the Brownstown Stud, was announced as the new owner of Hallow, a Bosworth mare who had at foot a brown colt-foal by Blue Peter, who went to the same buyer, after some opposition from Lord Glanely and Miss Paget's agent, at 1,500gs. Then, at 2,500gs. Covey obtained a rare bargain for Lady Wentworth in Flinders, a granddaughter of Pretty Polly by Tetratema, who cost 6,000gs. when bought at the December Sales of 1937. This mare, Flinders, was herself a winner and is a half-sister to the Champagne Stakes winner Arabella. She appears to have been satisfactorily mated with the St. Leger victor Fairway.

These mares, together with the three-year-old filly Rossington, who is by Fairway from Rosy Legend and was sold to Lord Glanely for 1,600gs., and the two-year-old filly by Fairway from Hallow, who found a new owner in Mr. A. F. Basset at 1,500gs., enabled the stud more or less to dominate affairs on the first day. On the second, which was devoted entirely to yearlings, though a filly, and a really lovely one at that, by Nearco from Hallow, found a new home at the Beech House Stud at 3,000gs., bigger money was forthcoming for a youngster from Enid, Countess of Chesterfield's Beningbrough Stud and for one from the National establishment. The former, who is a March-foaled own-brother of good quality to the St. Leger victor Sun Castle, made Captain Boyd-Rochfort, representing Lord Portal, and Mr. Frank Butters, who was acting for the Aga Khan, busy, and it was not until 8,300gs. was reached that Mr. Frank Butters made the final and successful bid. For the yearling from the National Stud, which was a bay or brown colt by Cameronian (now in the Argentine) from Clarence the dam of the King's filly Sun Chariot, Mr. Fred Darling went to 4,000gs. to get him for either Mr. J. A. Dewar or for Miss Dorothy Paget.

Lack of space prevents the consideration of others, seven more of whom made four figures or over, but sufficient has been written to show that the Second October Auction of 1941 will go down to history as one of the most remarkable in the annals of Messrs. Tattersall, who are to be congratulated upon their success. ROYSTON.



RUE DE LA PAIX, WINNER OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE WITH S. WRAGG UP

In last week's race he was ridden by T. H. Carey

## NEXT YEAR'S VEGETABLES

**V**EGETABLE gardening allows little rest to its serious devotees, and with the harvesting of this season's crops now practically at an end, the wise gardener will already be making preparations for next year's supplies. It is one of the gravest mistakes to allow the kitchen garden to look after itself when the bulk of the crops have been gathered, and although the tendency to neglect it may be strong, especially when there is a shortage of labour and much other work to be done, it should be resisted. Nothing is more important than to trench and manure all vacant ground as early as possible. The virtues of deep digging have been only too evident during the past year to require further emphasis, and if the labour is available the ground should be dug over to the full depth of the spade and the bottom soil broken up with the fork, adding manure in the form of rubbish from the compost heap as the soil is turned over. Leaves now lying thick upon the lawn and elsewhere should be gathered and stacked in a heap (picking out any sticks or rubbish) for the making of hot-beds later on. There is time enough yet for the making of these, so useful for raising a crop of early carrots, turnips, etc., but it is as well to have the leaves at hand and in proper condition when required for use.

In many gardens with warm south borders it is a common practice to make the first sowings of broad beans in another two or three weeks, and the procedure has much to commend it. There is always a risk of loss, however, and those with glass available will do better to sow in boxes about January, raising the plants in cold frames and planting out when ready.

Where frames are available the most should be made of them, and the two crops with which they can be filled are cauliflowers and lettuce. The former, raised from seed sown last month, will now be nice young plants excellent for pricking out in cold frames about 4ins. apart. The plants should have plenty of air on all favourable occasions, the lights being put in place only at night and during frost. Although plenty of lettuce will still be available from outside borders, the young plants from the last sowing should be pricked out into cold frames where they can pass the winter. It is advisable to dust a little soil fumigant into the soil before planting. As with the cauliflowers, always give the plants plenty of air except during frost, and place some kind of covering on the lights at night when the hearts are turning in.

Now that the growth of asparagus is turning yellow, it should be cut down, taking



A simple method of procuring an early supply of seakale by the forcing of the crowns under large pots placed over the plants during winter. As soon as the foliage dies down, the crowns should be allowed to rest for a month or two before forcing. On the right is shown the method of forcing seakale in pits employed by market gardeners. The crowns are lifted in December and placed over a hot bed on the bottom of a pit covered by boards and straw litter.



care not to injure the crowns. At the same time the beds should be cleaned of all weeds and about three or four inches of well rotted manure added unless the soil is on the heavy side, when leaf soil and sand should be used. The manure should then be covered with the soil taken from the sides of the alleys, so that the beds are left clean and tidy for the winter.

The green curled endive, so useful for saladings at this season, can now be lifted from the open border and blanched, leaving the Batavian variety until later as its stands the cold weather better. To force the plants in a house, lifting only as many at a time as are required, is a better method than blanching on the ground by means of pots or boxes, but of course the latter procedure must be adopted where no glasshouse is available. It is essential to keep the roots moist; otherwise the plants are inclined to become too tough and the flavour too bitter.

Chicory is another valuable if little-known salad for winter use, and preparations should be made now for forcing a few crowns. The usual way is to place the crowns in a bed in a forcing house and cut the heads as they are ready until the plants are exhausted. A better method, however, is to place the roots at the bottom of 2ft. deep boxes and fill with silver

sand, through which the crown pushes its way, forming a large solid head. There is time enough yet for the forcing of seakale, which is best done in December or early January, but as soon as the foliage of the plants dies down in the borders outside, the crop should be lifted and placed in a shed for trimming up. The young shoots wanted for next season's supply should be stored in boxes of sand placed under a north wall, while the forcing of the crowns should be started after they have been rested for a few weeks. A few crowns of rhubarb can be lifted now and placed in a bed in a forcing house to provide an early supply, while old roots that have been undisturbed for several years can be lifted and divided and the young crowns planted in a fresh bed that has been deeply dug and well nourished with generous dressings from the compost heap or vegetable refuse, such as beet-root tops, celery and carrot tops.

Among the other tasks which call for immediate attention is the earthing up of the latest rows of celery and the removal of all yellow and decaying leaves from the Brussels sprouts and other winter greens. It always pays to remove withered leaves from the base of the Brussels sprouts, as this assists the sprouts to mature and make up. It is advisable, too, to inspect from time to time during the next month or so all vegetables, like carrots, beet, potatoes and onions, that are in store, especially the onions, many of which are infected with the trouble known as neck rot this year, which, if allowed to develop unchecked, will cause serious losses among the bulbs in store.

G. C. T.



(Left): A crop of autumn-sown cauliflowers being over-wintered in frames. Full use should be made of all frame space for the protection of such crops as cauliflowers and lettuce during the winter.  
(Below): Leaves should be collected now in preparation for the making of hot beds on which to raise early crops.





## DALE . . . By BERNARD DARWIN

ONLY a short time ago I had as my theme the death of an old friend, one of the "elder statesmen" of golf, Sir Ernley Blackwell. Now it is that of a much younger friend about which I must try to say something. Captain Thomas Arundale Bourn, known to everyone as Dale, had died on active service, and his name brings back many memories. His loss is sad, but those memories cannot be sad ones; they are rather pleasant, gay, amusing, as he would have liked them to be.

They are memories of many courses and in particular perhaps of Rye and Deal. It is at Rye, when we meet again some day, as please heaven we shall, for the President's Putter, that his name will be among those of "absent friends" that we of the Society drink every year at our dinner. It is at Deal that we shall always think of him battling, so light-hearted and yet trying so desperately hard, for the Old Carthusians in the Halford Hewitt Cup. These are both essentially cheerful gatherings where, in Dick Swiveller's words, "the wing of friendship does not moult a feather," and it is natural to associate Dale first and foremost with them, because cheerfulness and friendliness and congeniality were of the very essence of him.

As a golfer Dale was always something of a riddle. He could play the most astonishingly eccentric shots; he was not, save in respect of his ever dauntless heart, invariably to be relied on; the observer was sometimes tempted to wonder exactly how good he was and exactly how he had accomplished what he had done. But it is easy to be too fanciful in criticism and it is wiser to judge by results. Mr. Alfred Lyttelton once wrote a sentence—about cricket, not golf—which is always worth bearing in mind. "When," he said, "supremacy is measured, as it ought to be measured, by results in runs, the good hard standard coin and test of cricketing successfulness . . ."

Applying that standard, *mutatis mutandis*, Dale was a very good golfer indeed; his record is there and you cannot get away from it. He won one English championship and was runner-up in another year; he was runner-up—to Mr. Michael Scott—in the Amateur Championship; he won the French Championship and—though not his highest achievement it was the occasion on which I thought he played best—he won the President's Putter. Leaving out various minor victories, such as in the London Foursomes, that is a good solid record of successes such as not many of his contemporaries have equalled or even approached.

It was technically that he was sometimes such a puzzle. He looked anything but a good putter; he had a curious little stabbing movement of the club; in certain moods he hardly seemed to take it back at all. And yet there could be no mistake about this, that if a man were wanted to lay a nasty curly one stone dead at a crisis or to hole a five-footer on which everything depended, Dale was the man for the job. Handsome was as handsome did.

On the other hand he looked the easiest and most graceful of swingers in the long game, and it was his long game that periodically let him down. There was some odd little demon of mistiming in that pretty swing which neither he nor his professional advisers could wholly exorcise, though both tried hard, and so ever and anon the ball would go floating away, still easily and gracefully but into fearsome places. Thus his game always seemed to me something of a golfing paradox, weakest in what looked to the casual observer its strongest point and strongest where it seemed weakest.

There was, however, one feature of it as to which nobody could have any doubt; he was full of a fighting spirit that might justly be called heroic, if there did not seem something inappropriate to him in so solemn a word. He had tremendous sticking power; he never gave up hope; he always rose to the occasion. He could make gratuitously bad shots he could also make most brilliant ones, and it was the nature of him to make them when they were wanted. He was the best of foursome partners, as I have good cause to say, since, when I was in a distinctly sere and yellow stage, he pulled me through, for Woking, into the

final of the London Foursomes. When we got there I must admit that his supporting arm weakened a little and I spent a good part of the afternoon up to my waist in the Camberley heather; but his play up to that point and the heart-warming, comforting feeling of such a partner is the surviving memory.

He was, from a temperamental point of view, an ideal foursome player and he loved foursomes, especially for the Old Carthusians at Deal. He did not always play well there, but somehow or other when his side was in direst need Dale seemed to bob up at the right moment to play the "counting" stroke. I never shall forget a match I watched between the Carthusians and the Wykehamists, Dale and Middleton on the one side, Kenneth Scott and Micklem on the other.

Even when the Charterhouse pair saved the match and went on to the nineteenth it seemed the forlornest of hopes, because another Winchester pair had looked certain to win; but that other pair did not win, and so all depended on this match, which ended on the twenty-third green. Dale did all manner of Jack-in-the-box recoveries, but I recall one that might have broken, in Andrew Kirkaldy's phrase, the heart of an iron horse. It was the

twenty-first hole. The Wykehamists played it like a book—two perfect shots, a pitch and the first putt all round the hole for a four. Not so the Carthusians, for Dale's brassy shot floated away towards the sea shore and ended in a stony, sandy wilderness. Middleton hewed it out but could do no more than reach the deep hollow in front of the green. Dale rightly took some straight-faced club, gave the ball a short, sharp tap up the slope and raced after it like greased lightning. I can see him clearly now. He got to the top in time to see his ball end stone dead. It was one of those typical Dale holes that made him so hard to contend with; he would first seem to give it you with unexpected generosity and then take it back out of your very mouth.

Dale, as it may be inferred, did not take golf or indeed life too seriously. There were occasions, no doubt, when he might have played better if he had gone to bed earlier the night before, but nobody would want him to have been other than he was by nature. Moreover, he had a fine hard power of trying deep down in him somewhere, and of tackling a job conscientiously when he really "got down to it." I am sure that he tried hard at this new job which the war thrust upon him and made a good soldier, as he must inevitably have made a gallant one. He had got pluck, a quality that everyone must long for in his heart, for which there is no substitute.

## A COUNTRYWOMAN'S DIARY

By E. M. DELAFIELD

WE are saying to one another in the country, in congratulatory tones, that "it'll shorten the winter." "It," of course, is the enchanting Indian summer that we are enjoying at the moment of writing this article.

The trees have scarcely yet begun to turn colour, although there is an occasional splash of chrome yellow among the still green leaves of the elm trees, but the Virginia creeper is beautifully red. Incidentally, the American word "vine" applied to all such climbers always seems to me more picturesque than "creeper"—with its caterpillar associations.

Not that I dislike caterpillars—at any rate the big, dark, woolly ones that hump themselves along the sides of the lanes nowadays and that an Irish friend of mine hailed pleasantly the other day as "creeping Mollies."

\* \* \*

OUR gardens—the humbler kind, like mine—are beautiful with Michaelmas daisies in mauve or pink or violet clumps, and sunflowers, and bushes of fuchsia. Alas! my own gardening effort earlier in the year was confined to planting some nasturtium seeds. The first lot received a heavy libation of weed-killer—I was told by mistake. One orange flower survived—like Rasputin, who had to be killed at least three times before he consented to die. The second lot, obeying some extraordinary law of natural justice, has ramped up the side of the house and draped itself opulently round the bedroom window of the original distributor of the weed-killer—who particularly dislikes nasturtiums.

\* \* \*

I HAD a very good opportunity of seeing the autumn cottage gardens at their loveliest on a short railway journey along a Devon Valley, when the train stopped at a number of tiny stations nearly each one of which was called *Something Halt*. What "Something" was had been patriotically obliterated. The farms and hamlets and cottages past which we slowly trundled had a dream-like quality of age and peace, and looked almost exactly as they must have looked a hundred years ago.

It was difficult to believe in the warlike preparations—that in any case always seem rather incredible—to be seen all over the countryside, but not in this remote and hidden valley.

On my return journey the train was late in starting—and an ancient Devon woman told me that this often happened, adding in

the same breath: "But if you'd *not* been here at the proper time he'd have gone long ago"—"he" being the train.

There's something in the theory, too!

\* \* \*

EVERY year, by one of those ridiculous trains of associated thought that everybody knows, I stand before an enormous fig-tree and say to myself thoughtfully:—

"Did you say fig or pig?"—just as the Cheshire cat said to Alice.

Unlike Alice, the reply in my case is emphatically *Fig*.

It has been an excellent year.

Early in the summer we made bags of butter-muslin (for which I was relentlessly asked to give up two clothes-coupons) and tied most of the more opulent looking figs inside them with black tape, giving them a curiously widowed appearance.

I now wonder whether this was waste of labour—and coupons—for there have been scarcely any wasps in the garden this year, and most of the best and largest figs are those growing so high up that I left them unprotected.

\* \* \*

THE birds have been kept well under control by the old cat, Napoleon, seconded by the younger one, Thompson—my favourite, incidentally, though I am obliged to turn a blind eye on the fearful havoc that he perpetrates among the birds. I am told that it is his job and that he deserves praise for doing it so well—but he gets none from me.

Thompson, besides being affectionate, is—like all cats—incredibly persistent. When he wishes to sit on my lap he does so—regardless of writing-pad, fountain pen, needlework or anything else. When I gently and kindly put him down he returns again and again, with bland purrings and tail-wavings.

There is one way, and one only, of discouraging him, and that, nowadays, is not always practicable. It is to light a cigarette. Actually, Thompson has become so wary now that it is quite enough to take out a cigarette and rattle a matchbox—and he vanishes.

Matches nowadays are nearly as difficult to obtain as cigarettes, so it is fortunate that one is not compelled to strike one.

\* \* \*

IN this part of the world, the Harvest Thanksgiving Service has already taken place in most village churches. The first intimation that I received of its imminent approach was the sight of a most enormous marrow in the church porch. To all those who have ever lived in one

of England's *real* country parishes the sight of a giant marrow lying in the church porch, or being trundled up the path in a wheelbarrow, means the same thing: Harvest Home and the decoration of the Church. In our own case the marrow, although present, did not preponderate unduly in the scheme of decoration. Apples were placed along the ledges of the rood-screen, Michaelmas daisies and wheat-sheaves were tied to the pillars, and a magnificent cross of crimson and orange dahlias was fastened to the front of the pulpit.

Since the service was held in the evening, black-out had to be dealt with and the enormous curtains of sacking that draped the Church

doors, not at all inartistically, reminded me of those curious *portières*, looking like very old mattresses stuffed with straw, that used to hang in front of the country churches in Spain and Italy.

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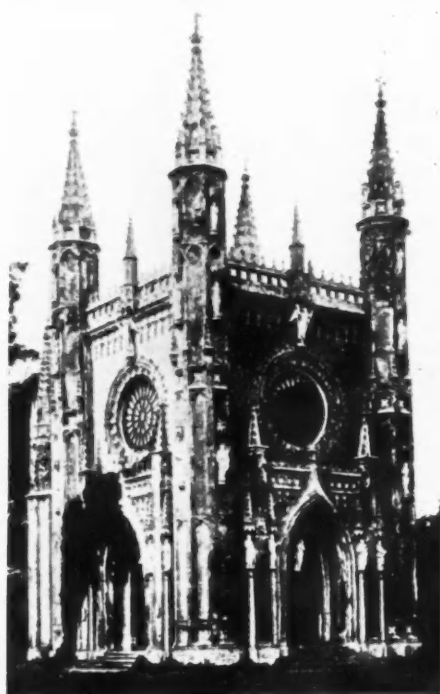
WE duly ploughed the fields and scattered, and did so—I am glad to say—to the old tune, associated with Hymns Ancient and Modern. I wonder how many people still in middle life can boast, as I can, of having once attended a service in a tiny hamlet, where the Church was as large as all the rest of the village put together, and heard the congregation

peacefully droning away at Tate and Brady's metrical version of the Psalms?

A recollection also comes to me in the same connection of a conversation held with a farm-labourer a few years ago, when the harvest had proved an unusually good one. We expressed our satisfaction to one another, and he thoughtfully remarked: "Reverend—" (the clergyman) "tells as how there's One above us as sees to our needs."

A long pause, in which I could only assent to the statement. He then added, even more thoughtfully, and in, I am quite sure, a spirit of complete reverence: "It begins to look as if there was something in it, like."

## CORRESPONDENCE



**PETERHOF: THE RUSSIAN VERSAILLES**

SIR,—In your issue of September 26, you published an account of the Russian Imperial palace of Peterhof, in the Gulf of Finland some fifteen miles west of Leningrad. I saw Peterhof on a breezy and sunny day in May, 1937, when the fountains were at their most lively and the newly-gilt garden-statuary at its most brilliant. One does not usually think of the Red flag as a purely decorative object, but as seen against the turquoise sky and the golden superstructure of Rastrelli's Church it was very decorative indeed.

At some distance from the palace stands the early nineteenth-century "English Cottage" of Nicholas I, a fascinating instance of *anglomanie* in Russia. It stands in a small park of its own, laid out in the English taste, with a "ruin" bridge, and is built in a Gothic-flavoured picturesque style. The English Cottage, or, more grandiloquently, the Alexandria Palace, is startlingly unlike anything else at Peterhof for, in the words of the guide-book, it is "an imitation of an English country-house, with refined comforts and exquisite simplicity." "Simplicity" is not quite the word, for every object in it is prickly with Gothic detail. The Gothic Chapel, like a folly from some romantic-revival English park, has a nostalgic charm when seen on the shores of the Gulf of Finland. As Rastrelli's Palace Church shows the prevailing Italian mode under the Empress Elizabeth, so this cottage, chapel and park show how widespread was the English romantic taste throughout Europe three-quarters of a century later.

The Park of Peterhof contains also a whimsical example of the sense of humour possessed by Peter I and his successors till Nicholas II, in the tree-fountain. This apparently ordinary tree would be pointed out by Peter to his guests as deserving close scrutiny and then, when the guests had approached it, the tree would suddenly spout showers of water on to them. The spectacle of the ladies and gentlemen being soaked, and pretending that they thought it a good joke, must have been very diverting to the Tsar. I saw a group of soldiers being thoroughly well caught, which was greeted by roars of laughter by everyone else, including myself.



(Above) "THE ENGLISH COTTAGE," PALACE OF NICHOLAS I

(Left) THE GOTHIC CHAPEL OF THE ENGLISH COTTAGE

(Right) THE TREE-FOUNTAIN IN ACTION

It was wonderfully funny, especially as I did not get wet.—JOHN STEEGMAN, 192, *Queen's Gate*, S.W.7.

### THE MYSTERY OF THE LADIES OF LLANGOLLEN

SIR,—I have been reading your correspondents' letters concerning the Ladies of Llangollen, and, whether or not they wore men's clothing, there is an interesting footnote on page 132 of the 1907 edition of the *Early Diary of Frances Burney*, edited by Mrs. Raine Ellis:—

"Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Ponsonby, ('the Ladies of Llangollen,') appear in their portraits as walking, and sitting at dessert, in their riding habits. The cut of their habits to the waist is that of men's clothes—and altogether they look like a couple of well-beneficed clergymen. . . ." She then continues with a quotation of Mr. T. Mozley's, in his second set of *Reminiscences*: " 'Till, I should say, 1835, it was a very ordinary thing to meet with ladies who, to save the trouble and cost of following the fashion, never wore anything but a closely fitting habit. It required a good figure and bearing.' Mr. Mozley adds: that it was 'the usual travelling dress for ladies,' that is, even for ladies who did not wear it daily. We think that Mr. Mozley brings the custom down rather too late, and that it can only have continued in very out of the way places as a daily dress. It is so obsolete that we have known ladies speak of their mothers, or grand-mothers, being married in their riding habits, as if it had been some exceptional and distinguished thing to have done, of a rather 'fast' nature, instead of a token of privacy, and of desire to spare expense—it was, in fact, being married in the gown in which you meant to travel, made of some solid material, with no furbelows (falbalas)."

A riding habit, as we know it, was in those days called a riding-skirt.

It would indeed be interesting to know why these Ladies settled at Llangollen.—M. TUGENDHAT, *Weft House, Widdington, Essex*.

### WINES AND WINE LABELS

From *Lady Ruggles-Brise*.

SIR,—In reply to Major Jarvis's Note on September 12, I have several gin labels, but they are all



nineteenth century. To judge by my collection and others I have seen, I should say that gin was served in the eighteenth century either as Geneva or Hollands. I have several of the latter, and one of Geneva of which the date is before 1783.

I have not yet been able to find out if the labels designed by T. Stothard have been wrought in silver, but I have examples of most of the makers mentioned by Mr. E. Alfred Jones in his letter of September 19, as also of many sauce labels. I mentioned the makers of many of my labels in my original article, but owing to the exigencies of space the information had to be omitted.

I am very much interested to hear of Colonel Vivian's old bottle of Constantia. William Hickey was once recommended to drink Constantia and no other wine as a cure for his state of health on a voyage from the Cape to England. He got worse and worse, until at last the Dutch captain said to him that if he would follow his advice he would be a "stout man" very soon. "I know you have good claret on board, let you and I take a bottle of it, instead of that vile sweet stuff you daily drink." Hickey agreed and improved rapidly.—SHEELAH RUGGLES-BRISÉ, *Ramsbury, Wiltshire*.

### A CORRUGATED ROAD SURFACE MADE BY CATTLE

SIR,—It might interest your correspondent Mr. H. H. Robinson (*COUNTRY LIFE*, April 26, 1941) to know that I observed very similar corrugations to those he describes, caused by cattle in a lane close to the village of Hullavington, near Chippenham, Wiltshire.

I was there in the autumn of 1939 and remember clearly commenting on the odd effect to my companion. The soil there was the whitish clay associated with the Cotswold limestone.—J. F. H. ANDREWS, *Officers' Mess, Royal Air Force, Kumalo, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia*.

### SPEED OF FISH

SIR,—Many years ago on a glassy-calm summer day in the Kilbrannan Sound I stood right in the bow of the turbine steamer *Queen Alexandra* and look down at the cutwater and was amazed to see





A MODEL AS A THANK-OFFERING

great shapely fish, in a brilliant purple-blue sheen, just under the surface, dead in line with our course, only a couple of yards ahead of the stem and keeping speed with the ship.

I watched entranced for an untimed minute when, in a flash, it was gone.

The *Queen Alexandra's* speed was, under the conditions, easily 23 knots (26½ miles an hour), that sustained speed of the blue shark, or whatever the fish was, is certain.

Apart from the beauty of the scene I was most impressed by the apparent immobility of the fish—not a movement of fin or tail could be seen. The fish would be at least 6ft., possibly 8ft. or 8ft., long.—W. L. SPENCE, *Kenilworth Road, Leamington*.

[There is a large genus of "blue sharks" (*Carcharinus*) the members of which often follow ships, and it is probable our correspondent's fish was one of them. They are fierce, voracious creatures, hunters of the seas and the larger ones are reputed to be man-eaters.—Ed.]

### MAGPIES IN IRELAND

SIR,—In a recent issue a correspondent asks whether a "gathering" of magpies numbering 19 is a rare sight. In County Wicklow, Ireland, where I come from, these "gatherings" in the early morning are frequently observed, in numbers up to 20 or more. Since coming to England I saw 23 magpies in a field near Headley, Surrey, in an afternoon last autumn.—O. A. T. S., *Tadworth, Surrey*.

### HORSES AND COWS

SIR,—Your correspondents will find the solution to the problem they discuss in an article (illustrated) by the late Professor J. Arthur Thomson entitled *In the Grip of the Past* in *Wonders of Animal Life*, edited by J. A. Hammerton, Vol. 3, page 1281 (Amalgamated Press, London, 4 vols.). Needless to say, no higher authority can be cited for Professor Thomson was one of the most skilful and charming of modern biological writers. Let me add that in rising the ox often remains upon his knees some

few seconds till his hind legs are straightened; that the horse and ox differ slightly in lying down, the horse not generally remaining so long upon his knees as the ox before bringing the rest of his body to the ground; that the elephant, rhinoceros and pig rise as the horse does, and that sheep, goats and deer get up like the ox.—JAMES A. REID, *Airdrie*.

### FOR KNITTERS

SIR,—Here is a photograph of an unusual form of knitting sheath such as was in use perhaps a century ago, when most country-folk, men in some parts as well as women, knitted as they went about their work. The sheaths were tucked into the belt and the end of the knitting-pin not in use was supported by being stuck into



A KNITTING SHEATH OF CURIOUS DESIGN

a hole in the top of the sheath. Experts in costume might be able to date this by the fashion in boots!—M., *Hereford*.

### THE BELGIAN BARGE

SIR,—On the wall of the church tower at Blagdon, Somerset, is this model of a canal barge flying the Belgian colours and perfect in its detail. It was given to the vicar at the end of the first German war as an expression of gratitude from Belgian refugees who found shelter in the peaceful Mendip village above the famous lake.—M. P. P.

### THE OLDEST BRITISH BARRACKS

SIR,—The Berwick-on-Tweed barracks are the oldest existing in England, having been built in 1719. They are a fine quadrangle of buildings, the gateway of which bears the coat of arms of George I. Note the Hanoverian horse and the fleur-de-lis of France on it—the King of England was still "King of France," heraldically that is!—SEDGEMOOR SERJEANT.

[There is a good deal more of interest that can be said of the barracks at Berwick-on-Tweed. Professor A. E. Richardson, A.R.A., informs us that he is convinced that the barracks were designed by Sir John Vanbrugh when attached to the Board of Works. They show considerable affinity to the Gun Wharf at Devonport, also attributed to



THE QUADRANGLE GATEWAY OF BERWICK BARRACKS

Vanbrugh, and show much of his characteristic style. The buildings, besides the archway illustrated, comprise a massive quadrangle and the Governor's House. The barracks are well maintained.—Ed.]

### A STRANGE PLACE OF WORSHIP

SIR,—Your readers may like to see a photograph of a curious place of worship in Scotland. This can justly claim distinction, for it has no seating arrangements whatever, being merely a huge boulder of grey stone, standing in a little clearing at Ardlui, on the banks of Loch Lomond.

A century ago this rock was held in great esteem by the local Scots—it was their church.

It seems that there was no place of worship in the district, and the Minister of Arrochar, on Loch Long, had promised to preach at Ardlui as soon as a church was found.

The Scots found that the rock, set in its impressive surroundings with the Loch in front and the rugged slopes of Ben Vorlich behind, made a grand natural meeting place. They thereupon set to work to chisel out a square chamber (shown in my photograph) in the rock face from which

the Minister could preach. The congregation sat on layers of cut turf in the clearing in front.—L.

### A REBUS MILESTONE

SIR,—The interesting article on Milestones in *COUNTRY LIFE* for September 26, makes me think that you might like to see the photograph of a curious milestone on the main London-Eastbourne road at Golden Cross, Sussex.

This rebus milestone must be very familiar to travellers on this road, and no doubt many have wondered what it represents.

It tells us that it is 51 miles to Bow Bells, this being denoted by the figures 51 beneath which is a bow to which is suspended four bells.

The figures, bow and bells are made of iron and fixed to a wooden post.

Notice also the buckle at the top, said to be the emblem of Sir John Pelham.—E. J. ELPHICK, *Rocks Farm, Staplecross, Sussex*.

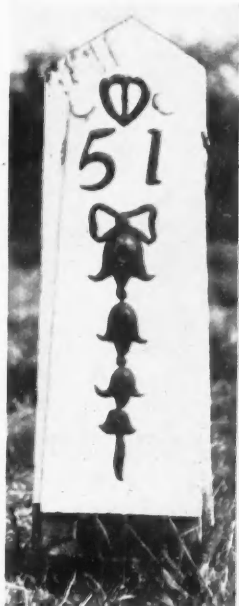
### CURES FOR ECZEMA IN DOGS

SIR,—I read in *COUNTRY LIFE* (Sept. 12) in "A Countryman's Notes," by Major C. S. Jarvis, a request for information as to successful treatment of eczema in dogs.

I have kept many dogs of many breeds, and completely cured two dogs with bad eczema—one a 12-year-old collie, who had had it a long time, and whom I took care of while the owner was abroad, the other a shepherd's bob-tail, not young. I told him to feed his dog (as I had done) entirely on meat—difficult perhaps for an ordinary farmhand but shepherds get lots of rabbits and, if they kill sheep for the farm or "big house," plenty of dogs' meat. At this time, I suppose, only horse flesh can be got in towns. I gave homeopathic arsenicum 3x little tabloids, which, put on the back of the dogs' tongues soon dissolved. I used it with great success in another case, one of my own dogs.

The last pup I brought up was a cairn. Our vet. said: "Give pups *nothing* but bread and milk till three months old. Then feed entirely on scalded bread with gravy and meat—no dog biscuits or 'foods.' Bread, is, too, the cheapest food." This cairn pup was always well, never even sick once as far as I know, and grew into a great beauty. The bread was scalded with boiling water in a bowl. The water not absorbed was drained off, and gravy, or good soup, and scraps of meat added: this after her day's walks (she was, of course, a free dog, always loose in house and grounds) and after our breakfast she had bread and milk. Of course she had little extras—a few—of bread and butter, sweet biscuits and so on once or twice a day—she loved ginger-nuts, and always found one in her basket when she went to bed, in my bedroom. I never had a healthier dog.—V. G.

SIR,—I have found no permanent cure—I do not believe one exists—but a treatment I have found very efficacious is a prescription I got from an old huntsman who knew a lot about dogs. Mix three parts of flowers of sulphur with one part of cream



FIFTY-ONE MILES TO LONDON



THE PULPIT ROCK WITH THE SQUARE CHAMBER FROM WHICH THE MINISTER PREACHED

of tartar and give a small dog about half a teaspoonful (either in powder or mixed up with water) for three mornings running, then have three mornings off, and go on again, for about a fortnight. This helps to clean the blood.

If the patches break, or look sore, I find rubbing in a little cod liver oil is very good and makes the hair grow again quickly. Incidentally, a surgeon tells me cod liver oil is one of the latest surgical dressings!—E. C. H. WOLFF, *Eastleigh, Hampshire*.

SIR,—The enclosed is a prescription for mange, but I have used it for the last 20 years with excellent results for any kind of skin affection or sore place on horses, cows, goats and dogs.

(a) 1lb. of good soft soap dissolved in 1 gall. of boiling water, (b)  $\frac{1}{2}$  gall. paraffin mixed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  gall. raw linseed oil. Pour (b) into (a) and stir. Apply the emulsion to the affected parts and let it dry on. Leave it on for two or three days, and then wash off with soft soap and warm water. The skin should then be clean and all scabs and dead hair removed. If one application does not effect a cure then clip and repeat the treatment. The linseed oil solidifies and suffocates the insects that are the cause of mange. The paraffin assists new hair to grow, and the soft soap is of assistance in the removal of the dried emulsion.—E. M. MOORE, *Summerleaze Avenue, Compton, Goring-by-Sea*.

SIR,—A distinguished London skin specialist told me that there is not one kind of dry eczema, but several kinds, and this, I understand, applies to dogs as much as to human beings.

I have a Sealyham and a West Highland terrier, and both have suffered much from dry eczema this summer. A contributory cause may be our hot sandy soil, which contains a good deal of iron.

My veterinary surgeon has given each of these bitches half a dozen injections of arsenic, at intervals of five days, and it has afforded them a considerable measure of relief.

I have also found the following applications very useful, though I cannot claim that they are absolute cures. (Alternatives.)

(a) Para-nitrophenol 1 per cent. in surgical spirit. Apply with cotton-wool thoroughly three times a week for three weeks at a time.

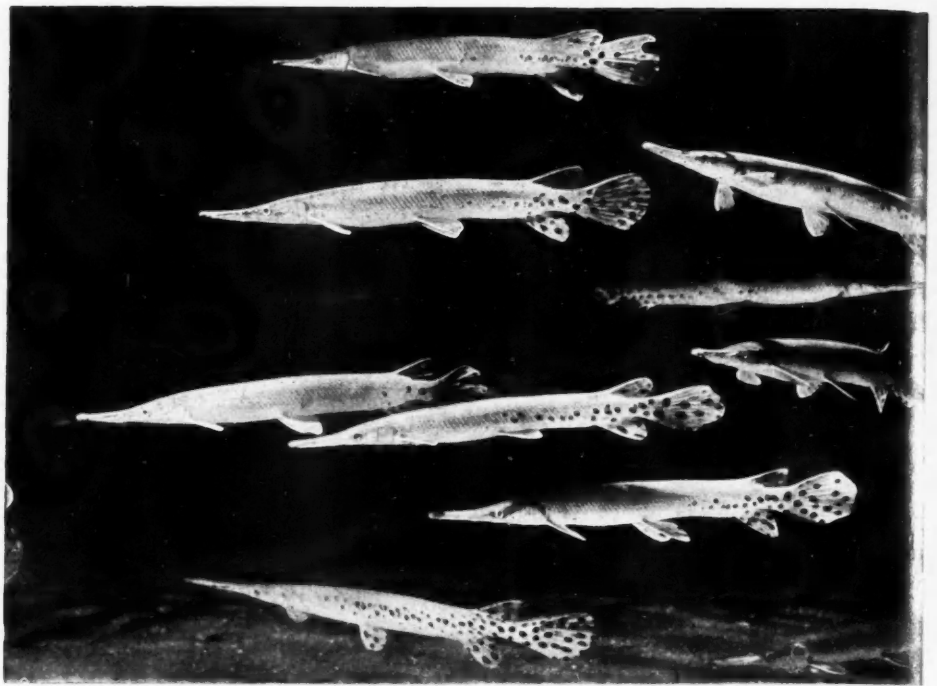
(b) Tar Dermament.

(c) The paste. Rub into the patch of eczema twice daily for 10 days at a time: Liq. picis carb. 2 drams, Hydrang. Ammon. 10 grains, Lanolini 2 drams, Pasta Zinci (B.P.) ad. 1oz.

In addition, dissolve daily in food one tablet of Milk of Magnesia.—ALWYN PARKER, *Thursley, Godalming*.

[Another correspondent, Mr. John D. McAree (*Stirling*), kindly suggests Cooper McDougall's "Kur-Mange," with which he has been very successful.

Other correspondents have kindly sent suggestions direct to Major Jarvis. Mr. Edgar Stevenson writes: "I would like to suggest that you try the local application of cod liver oil. It has very remarkable healing properties, and the only objection to it is its smell. It could be applied with a paint-brush three or four times a day to keep the affected area fairly moist, and the patient and his friends should be prevented from licking it off. Flies also should be discouraged as far as possible. Any cheap cod liver oil will do, so long as it really is unadulterated. If any improvement takes place



LONG-NOSE GAR-FISH, FOR TWELVE YEARS IN NEW YORK AQUARIUM

### THE GAR-FISH OF THE MISSISSIPPI

SIR,—This photograph taken in the fine New York Aquarium seems to me of interest. It shows long-nose gar-fish from the Mississippi, one of the few fresh-water scenes in the collection. These gar-fish have spent 12 years in the aquarium.—A. P. P.

### A GARDEN APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME FOR WOMEN

SIR,—May we appeal to your readers to support the Garden Apprenticeship Scheme for training girls and women to take the places of the men who are being called up?

This scheme, established by voluntary enterprise, has proved its soundness and has recently received Government recognition, in the shape of a limited grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, and the co-operation of county agricultural authorities. It has also had the encouragement of a gift from the Royal Horticultural Society.

Six months' apprenticeship obviously cannot turn out a fully trained gardener, but it does produce women and girls with a practical training concentrated mainly on food production; and, unless labour of that sort can be found, we seem faced with the prospect of beautiful and fertile gardens lying derelict and their valuable contribution of fresh fruit and vegetables being lost to the nation. We have also in mind the hope that girls who do well may be able, after the war, to complete their practical experience by a horticultural course at college, and so qualify for a satisfactory professional future. Many keen girls and women apply, who have so strong a wish to help their country in its emergency and to take up gardening, that they are ready to throw up better-paid but less essential work. But many need some financial assistance during the initial probationary period of their apprenticeship.

We need funds also for establishing a few larger training centres, for our central organisation and for the extension of our scheme on a large scale. Between 65 and 70 gardens are training our apprentices and we have about 100 girls and women in training or about to start. But thousands are needed, and for their training we are not only in urgent need of funds, but we require further co-operation from public-spirited garden-owners and their head-gardeners.

Will all who can help us please communicate with the Joint Organisers, Garden Apprenticeship Scheme, Women's Farm and Garden Association, at this address?—SYDNEY E. BUTLER, *Chairman, Appeal Committee*; VICTORIA HICKS-BEACH, *Chairman, Women's Farm and Garden Association*; N. LUCAS, *President, Women's Farm and Garden Association, Courtauld House, Byng Place, W.C.1.*

### A YEW TREE PORCH

SIR,—Your readers may like to see this yew tree church porch at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. Planted many years ago these two trees have now grown to such proportions that it is difficult to see where tree-trunks finish and stonework begins.—F. R. WINSTONE, *Bristol*.



YEW TREES THAT COMBINE WITH STONEWORK TO MAKE A PORCH AT STOW-ON-THE-WOLD



# BETTER FODDER FROM STRAW

By H. C. LONG

**P**ROBABLY most people familiar with country life are aware that oat straw is commonly reserved for fodder, in its natural state or chaffed; that barley straw is similarly used but is inferior to oat straw, chaff and cavings; and that wheat straw is so fibrous and indigestible that it is usually reserved for bedding, thatching and packing.

For many years there has been under consideration the possibility of breaking down the fibrous covering of the cells of straw, particularly wheat straw, and making the contained nutrients available to the digestive juices of animals. Attempts were made to attain finality during the war of 1914-18, and, though they were to a great extent successful, the whole project seems to have died with the return of peace.

Since the outbreak of the present war the question has come up again with redoubled urgency, and the immense increase in the cereal area, together with the shortage of feeding-stuffs, has sufficed to make the possibilities attractive to farmers and technical workers alike.

Two or three years ago the writer attempted to get various bodies interested in the conversion of straw into fodder and straw boards, but without success. Happily, Imperial Chemical Industries took the matter up, and last year work was sufficiently advanced to secure official recognition and support. As a result feeding trials were carried out last winter on 255 farms.

So successful were these trials, and so well was the treated fodder received and relished by the stock, that arrangements are being made to provide plants for the treatment of chaff, cavings and chopped straw throughout the country. It is understood that during the past few weeks about 400 farmers have made arrangements to introduce plants and convert straw for fodder during the winter.

On October 1 demonstrations of the straw pulp process were carried out, under the guidance of Imperial Chemical Industries, at the farm of Mr. Hubert Hailey, near Hitchin, and interest in the subject was emphasised by the attendance of Mr. R. S. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, to address the gathering, and of a considerable number of farmers to make themselves acquainted with a new idea that will be of real value to them. The Minister gave a brief account of the evolution of the process and urged farmers to introduce a conversion plant into their farming practice for use this winter. Colonel Peel, of I.C.I., also gave some valuable advice on the actual processing.

What is termed the straw pulp process is very simply carried out. It consists in treating chaff, cavings or chopped straw with a weak solution of caustic soda for a certain number of hours, draining it, washing it thoroughly in a separate tank, draining it again and then feeding it to the stock.

In order to make good use of a conversion plant a farm needs sufficient straw, an ample water supply, and a satisfactory means of getting rid of the effluent, or washing water.

The two tanks and drainage ramp occupy a space of 12ft. by 12ft. and may be built of concrete or brick and concrete, or a pre-cast plant may be purchased and erected at a total cost of £38. If desired, shuttering for the making of the outfit on the farm may be freely borrowed from Imperial Chemical Industries.

One ton of straw makes  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons of pulp, giving a food value about equivalent to 1 ton of good hay, or  $4\frac{1}{4}$  tons of roots, or  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of crushed oats or sugar-beet pulp. The straw pulp costs about 15s. a ton to make, and wheat straw is £4 a ton. This means that the straw pulp fodder is provided at approximately £2 a ton—the value of mangolds.

As regards feeding and food value, it may



ESSENTIALS FOR A STRAW PULP PLANT EXHIBITED AT THE DEMONSTRATION ATTENDED BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

be said that the material should be introduced gradually into the ration, and there should be no difficulty in bringing the quantity up to 50lb. or more per head daily. It is, however, most important that washing be done thoroughly, to the point when all soapiness and caustic taste have disappeared—otherwise the cattle will refuse it. Given well-made pulp they will take it freely, and encouragement may be given by sprinkling it with a small quantity of meal. Cattle have taken as much as 80lb. a day.

The drained pulp contains 80 per cent. of water and 20 per cent. of dry matter. The starch equivalent of the dry matter is 45 and hence of the wet pulp it is 9lb. per 100lb. of pulp. This appears to hold no matter what type of straw, chaff or cavings may be used.

For purposes of comparison it may be stated that 100lb. of the wet (but well

drained) pulp are equal in feeding value—starch equivalent or calories—to 11lb. of maize,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of barley or rice meal, 15lb. of oats or dried sugar-beet pulp, 29lb. of average meadow hay, 120lb. of mangolds or 130lb. of swedes.

The pulp contains practically no protein and is lacking in mineral matter, and it is advised that when it is given in considerable quantity 1oz. to 2oz. of a mineral mixture (equal parts steamed bone flour and finely ground chalk) should be sprinkled on the daily allowance for each head of cattle. It is desirable to provide also a salt lick.

In view of its purely carbohydrate nature straw pulp must be used to replace only starchy foods, like maize, oats, barley, rice meal or roots. Balancing is done by the use of protein foods.

Straw pulp is also a valuable food for farm horses and the former have been given up to 40lb. per head daily, in several feeds, replacing part of the hay and crushed oats. When keep is short in-lamb ewes or ewes with lamb may be given a few pounds daily; while hand-fed sheep may receive a ration of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 3lb. of a mixture of six parts pulp to one part decorticated ground-nut cake, the pulp replacing cereals.

For dairy cows the pulp may be used in addition to silage and cake, quantities varying somewhat in accordance with the protein content of the silage and cake.

There will be found many details on which farmers may need fuller information, and they should ask Imperial Chemical Industries, Belmont, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7, for a leaflet giving an account of the method, the plant and the utilisation of the product.

## FARMING' NOTES

### PARKLAND OWNERS AND THE POULTRY RATION

**N**OW that the rationing scales under this winter's feeding-stuffs scheme are being worked out for individual farms, it is clear that the ordinary mixed farmer who grows a fair amount of corn and has a dairy herd will come off quite comfortably. One of the men who will be hardest hit is the country gentleman who has perhaps 12 or 15 acres of parkland and keeps a few fowls to supply eggs for his household. Because he has agricultural land, he will not be entitled to any feeding-stuffs for his hens at all, unless he had some prodigious number in June, 1939. One case may be quoted as an instance: the owner of a 20-acre property who now has 40 hens but no ploughland on which he could grow oats or other feeding-stuffs, finds himself bereft of any feeding-stuffs coupons. His so-called agricultural land, which is really a park, is not suitable for ploughing, but he has, at the request of the War Agricultural Committee, put in some young cattle to graze. The owner's chauffeur, who has no agricultural land but has 12 hens, will go on receiving his feeding-stuffs coupons through the Domestic Poultry Keepers' Council. He himself is disqualified from the D.P.K.C. scheme because he occupies more than 10 acres of agricultural land. He could let off some to get within the limit to it. There appears to be here a case for adjusting the feeding-stuffs rationing scheme. It cannot be right to prevent a man keeping hens because he occupies agricultural land which by common agreement is unsuitable for ploughing. He can,

of course, get swill like anybody else to make up with potatoes the basis of a laying ration, but he does want some other feeding-stuffs such as meat and bone meal to keep his birds in productive order.

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**T**HE mangold crops look extraordinarily well this year. The cows will have something they relish after Christmas. Indeed, there is the prospect of a succulent diet for them right on from now until the spring. In Surrey last week I saw some magnificent maize 5ft. or 6ft. high being cut and thrown out to the cows as grass. In the next field the second of a trio of silos was being topped up with grass trimmings, and elsewhere on the farm there is a bulky crop of kale which will go to the cows in the early winter. The cows themselves were looking extraordinarily well, as indeed they should, with so much growing grass in the pastures. It is several years since the dairy herds started the winter season in such good fettle, and not for more than a generation have dairy farmers had so much home-grown fodder on their farms. The stage is set for a good flow of milk this winter. Hay, one of the most important fodders, is superfine on the farms that cut their crop in June.

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**T**HOSE who have kept faithful to their pigs will now reap some reward in the higher prices for fat pigs which have been fixed by the Ministry of Food. The increase is not all that farmers asked for, but it does remove the deterrent to continued pig production which

was deliberately arranged by the Government some months ago to effect a reduction in the numbers of pigs. Judging from all reports the pig population has been cut drastically in the past year. There is indeed an acute shortage of store pigs in many districts and the municipalities which have installed special plant to dry their kitchen waste have found themselves without local buyers. There was no great encouragement to keep pig-breeding going. Fortunately, the reduction has been largely among commercial herds, which are mostly cross-bred, and most of the leading pedigree breeders have kept together at least a nucleus of stock. Some of them will be placed in difficulties this winter, but they can get special consideration from the War Agricultural Committees. It is right that care should be taken to maintain a nucleus of the best strains so that

pig-breeding can expand again, after the war, on sound lines.

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POTATO blight has certainly done a great deal of damage to the crops this season. We shall not know how much until late in the winter when the clamps are opened. For all the care one may take in picking out the diseased tubers when the potatoes are going into clamp, it is inevitable that some slip through and start rotting in the clamp if the growing crop was badly affected by blight. A good many farmers did take the precaution of spraying their crops in July, when the wet weather started. Damp conditions, as we all know, continued more or less through August, and it was then that the widespread infection took place. Having sprayed once, few farmers were inclined to spray again. They took a chance.

When blight has got a hold on a growing crop the damage to the tubers can be checked by spraying off the tops with sulphuric acid. A special type of sprayer is needed, and the work is so tricky that it is best done by a contractor who really understands how to handle sulphuric acid. If the tops are killed off before blight has spread down the stems to reach the tubers, there is every hope that the potatoes will not be affected and will keep well in clamp. Some growers on a smaller scale have cut off the foliage, which also helps. Spraying with acid, which burns off all the foliage, has the advantage of killing the blight spores above ground, so that when the potatoes are lifted they are not infected. Spraying has not, however, been carried out on a wide scale. We must expect that there will be a heavy wastage of this year's bumper potato crop. CINCINNATUS.

## WAR-TIME DRIVING IN THE SHOW-RING

By R. S. SUMMERHAYS

THE experiment of holding a few small horse shows and gymkhanas during the summer season of 1940 was sufficiently satisfactory to encourage the fixing of similar affairs during the past season, and, indeed, many more such events were held. The essential to the success of any show was there—entries in good numbers—and the public seemed glad enough to lose itself for a few short hours in the familiar and time-honoured atmosphere of the ring. Association with numbers of horses seemed good and restful, and the weather in 1940, we all remember, was glorious. Spitfire and Fighter funds, war weapons weeks and, of course, the Red Cross were natural and very praiseworthy objects (or in some cases no doubt excuses), and show executives probably found in every case that financial success had gone hand in hand with giving the horse world just what it wanted and just what it looked like missing—the small and friendly horse show and gymkhana.

The countryman and the town-dweller love their day out around the ropes and do not need the proverbial eye for a horse to enjoy a horse show. What more do they want than the thrills and laughter which come when the novice or open jumping events hold the ring? To see a competitor scatter the triple bars or, better still, land in the water is, it seems, much more to their liking than to watch a well-schooled horse do its clear round. Laughter is a good tonic and good value for gate-money.

With so much pleasure and such a medium for adding to the funds of war charities and the like, it was only to be expected that the 1941 season would see a considerable increase in the number of shows and gymkhanas. Without exception probably, the results more than justified the holding of these shows. The deplorable weather throughout August, however, was on many occasions a bitter disappointment, and judges and competitors alike have memories of utter desolation and rain-sodden clothes. Pity the poor competitor on those days with

rain running down his neck, sitting on a wet saddle with a headstrong horse rushing his jumps and "soapy" reins running through his fingers.

We have missed the gay and graceful hackney in these war-time shows, and we are much the poorer on this account, but we have found a substitute in his less spectacular counterpart in a new event—the driving class, limited or not to certain heights of horses or ponies, but more often than not without restriction and entirely without classification as to type of vehicle.

With these "best driving classes" before them judges have had a difficult task to assemble all the points which have to be assessed in so varied an entry, for at most shows a great variety of types have appeared. Chief among them are the suitability of the horse and the condition of the cart and harness, the fitting of the harness and the worth or otherwise of the horse as a "drive." The general turn-out, of course, is all-important, and the balance and appearance of the vehicle, not to mention such small things as the inclusion of lamps, rug, and the driver's gloves and hat.

This new class made its appearance for no other reason than that the war has brought back to the roads the utility horse-drawn cart—something which helps to overcome the petrol ration trouble, and really does do the job of getting somewhere and carting something, and with extreme economy. Most of these turn-outs were engaged in salvage or other war work, often in addition to the daily shopping in the near-by town, and their owners welcomed the opportunity given to them to show their honest and hard-working ponies in the show-ring, and this indeed they did in large numbers. Few had any chance of carrying away the coveted ribbons with little carts dragged out from the back of the coachhouse or barn, sadly lacking in varnish, or at best touched-up with the paint brush at home. The harness, too, though

well enough soaped perhaps, was cracked and had grown to that venerable grey-black which defeats the most skilful coachman.

To those who worked so hard in the many and varied war occupations in which these horses and carts were engaged and who must have laboured hard on horse and cart to fit them for the show-ring, COUNTRY LIFE and *Riding* presented to all entrants to these war-time driving classes, where the executives applied for them, a rosette surrounded by red and white ribbons inscribed in the centre: To Competitors in War-time Driving Classes. To judge from all that has been said and written by those who have received these mementoes they have given very much satisfaction. A rosette on a bridle is very nice, even if it is a memento and not an award, and no doubt during driving through the village homeward bound in the late afternoon the rosette with its ribbons fluttering in the breeze was a sign and symbol of good work well done by horse and driver during these war days.

Rosettes have been sent to 19 shows, and 180 entrants have driven home with their rosettes. In numbers of harness rooms this small memento will no doubt hang for many a year after the war—a sign of what the little horse and cart did in the worst of all wars. There are many who think this delightful combination will not be given up and that it has come to stay. Certainly most of those who have sat behind the shafts and captured the real joy of seeing the sensitive ears and the play of the rippling muscles on shoulders and quarters will see to it. To handle the reins to the lightest of mouths or to the boldest trapper "who goes on his bridle" is a joy missed by the horseman who is only a rider.

Even before the war branches of the Driving Club under the National Horse Association of Great Britain were appearing in various districts. Most of us in the horse world share the belief that enthusiasm for the riding horse will be as great or greater after the war, and that the harness horse, which is so often the riding horse as well, will grow in numbers when peace comes. No horseman is complete unless he can drive as well as ride, and to know the joys of driving is to add to his knowledge of horse-mentality and his own happiness.



VARIETY OF PONIES AT A SHOW  
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# DEER FORESTS IN WAR-TIME

By G. DENHOLM ARMOUR

THERE are symptoms of a revival of agitations regarding what has been called the waste of ground entailed by deer forests, and a much-respected daily paper lately referred to every effort being made to kill deer "so that land from deer forests can be transferred to agricultural purposes." These agitations have been originated no doubt by well-meaning, but ill-informed, persons; but they have died a natural death when the agitators have been helped to understand better the nature of the land and the conditions obtaining.

One rather natural mistake used to be that the name "forest" implied a place where trees abound and where more immediately useful things might be substituted, instead of its being a mountainous waste of rocks, rough, hard, uneatable grass, and, when level enough to

men who live there, have convinced me that deer, the native fauna, are the only animals suitable to the country. The only question, to my mind, is how the best use can be made of what undoubtedly is a source of good wholesome food at a time like the present.

Early in the war the Government, realising this truth, appointed a controller of deer, a man long resident in the Highlands and with much experience of deer forests, Mr. Frank Wallace, and he has kindly given me a few notes and figures as to what it has been possible to do. He does not dwell on the difficulties, but I gathered they had been many.

Mr. Wallace told me the normal number of stags killed was 7,000 and of hinds 6,000. Last year the number of stags killed had been increased to 9,000.

He added that he thought it did not

man, known as "the rifle" for short, the stalker and two gillies. One of the latter would be with the stalker, the other with the two ponies. If for utility stalking only, the sportsman might be left out and the stalker would use the rifle. Depending on the wind, the distance to where deer were likely to be found might be long or short, but I have often had a 10-mile journey, either riding one of the ponies or on foot.

Spying the ground, one locates a shootable stag, or maybe several stags, and the stalk is planned. The stalker does another careful survey of the ground to see the best route of approach.

"We'll have to go round and get above them" is his verdict. "If they'd been a wee bit farther west it would have been easier, but this wind will be curlin' along yon hill face when it strikes it, not what it is here at aall."

So off we go for a walk of several miles, mostly up-hill and over bad going. Some 40 minutes gets us to the point of attack, and a crawl begins, as we have only the curve of the ground to hide us. A slight hummock lies in our way, and affords cover from which to use the glass again.

"Take care ye don't show yerself; we're on the skyline," whispers Donald, as he gets out his glass. "Man, they've moved! I was fearin' they might have seen yon old grouse we pit up back yonder; its have disturbit them I'm thinking, but they'll no go beyond a wee corrie that's farther east most likely."

So back we go behind the ridge and east for another mile, to find the deer have not stopped where we expected, but have gone up wind crossing the Flores, a boggy stretch, to the opposite hill face and are preparing to settle there.

"Ye'd better have yer lunch and give them time to settle down," is Donald's suggestion, and not unwellcome.

It would be tiresome to detail the stalk that follows lunch. Suffice it to say, a long walk and another crawl up the bed of a burn of very cold

water gets us within shot of a shootable stag a couple of hours later, and the shot drops him. The gillie is sent back to signal the ponies up while we gralloch the stag. In course of time they arrive, the beast is loaded on one, and, as afternoon is wearing on, we decide to call it a day.

This was a simple day without weather complications, which can entirely put an end to stalking for that day. Mist may come down and blot out even the hills themselves, spying is impossible, and even walking over the ground may clear off all deer upon it without their ever being seen. Then home, and watch your going, is the order.

Taking deer home to the larder sometimes has its own troubles, such as heavy rain higher up making little burns raging torrents and the river ford, if there is one, a serious obstacle. But long practice and the help of ponies that never put a foot wrong generally overcome all that. In peace-time the larder supplies the lodge, and a few presents are sent to friends or neighbours. But in times like the present the chief difficulties begin there, and to overcome them successfully would seem to call for a variety of accomplishments ranging from those of a master butcher to a railway traffic manager, and some more. A field telephone service might help, but I fear cost would rule that out.



THE EMPTY GLEN

hold the moisture required, of scrappy heather and peat hags. Trees are represented occasionally by a few birches and rowans, with now and then a few Scotch firs, weather-beaten and stunted.

I should say that agriculture in the Highlands is quite as good as elsewhere, and a journey by the Highland railway shows crops of oats which would be envied by south country farmers—good barley and potatoes and roots which cannot be grown in the south. But that is when the land is little above sea level. A few hundred feet make all the difference in that latitude, and the deer forests run from a thousand to three thousand feet higher.

The more obstinate critics then say: why not clear the deer out and run sheep? This is the very opposite from what it has been found necessary to do in many cases. Though deer suffer a heavy death roll in hard winters, sheep show a much heavier.

I have been all through forests which have been run for sheep not many years before and have seen evidence of their unsuitability in weather-washed bundles of wool and a few bones, the remains of what were sheep that had died either from starvation or under a snowdrift. I have wondered what kind of life the men who tended them must have had. These sad evidences, and the talk of the hardy

matter how many stags were killed, but the hinds should be taken care of, and this would seem pretty obvious if the stock has to be kept up. I asked if the market demand had been good, and he said it had, and that the price per pound had been from 6d. to 1s., according to season. February was the best month, from which I conclude the hinds sold best, as they are invariably shot in winter and early spring.

These figures, I dare say, will disappoint readers who do not know the difficulties that have to be overcome in getting venison to a market. On a map deer forests do not look far apart, but when it comes to getting the venison by road the distance often increases by four or five times that which the crow would fly.

In many cases the forest lodge and larder may be 10 or more miles from telephone or telegraph communication, and the uncertainty of the initial getting of the deer makes it impossible to make arrangements far ahead.

For the uninitiated it may be of interest to give an account of what might be an average day's stalking in which one stag is killed, though I doubt whether a stag a day could be averaged, what with bad weather and one thing and another over which no one has control.

The party would usually consist of a sports-



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## THE ESTATE MARKET

## INSISTENT ENQUIRY FOR FARMS

**A**s a rule would-be investors keep their requirements a secret until after the deal is completed, but some of them, anxious to buy agricultural land, have come into the open and invited offers. No harm, in the way of raising of prices against them can be apprehended at present, in the case of prospective investors in farms, for it is a fundamental assumption on the part of most vendors that the investor will compete with the farmer for anything worth having, and they are right.

## METHODS OF NEGOTIATION

**T**HE resources of agents are inexhaustible, and they know how to conduct enquiries, and even negotiations, and certainly how to attend auctions, without conveying the least hint of their particular interest in transactions. Sometimes the secrecy leads to disappointments for their clients, and cases have been known where opportunities have been lost. Perhaps less infrequent instances of disappointed prospective purchasers are to be found as a result of reluctance to spring the last few hundreds or thousands of pounds for some coveted property, the more resolute, not necessarily the more affluent, bidder eventually landing the bargain. In a London deal, a few years ago, the agent's insistence that he knew for what sum he could close the deal, led to the loss of a much wanted freehold, for which the disappointed client would have paid at least £20,000 more than the actual buyer paid. In the average agricultural land purchase the margin of negotiation is very much narrower than that amount, and, despite the continuing upward movement of prices of farms, a bold decision to become owner usually involves only a resolve to be ready to pay an extra few hundred pounds.

## OVER-CAUTIOUS BIDDERS

**A**s one of the great figures of City estate agency often remarked to the assembled company at his Tokenhouse Yard auctions: "Who can say that a property is worth so much and not a penny more? I have been at the valuation business all my life, and now I do not profess to estimate anything to within hundreds or it maybe thousands of pounds. If any of you can do so your business is to be in the rostrum." His argument invariably led

to further advances of the bidding, and sales for £100,000 and over were common enough at the old Mart in those days. On one occasion he complained that the bidding was too slow, and it was, two or three bidders, all of them agents, treading on one another's heels with trivial and cautious offers. The investment consisted of a very valuable freehold in Parliament Street, and the auctioneer invited a spirited advance from a newcomer into the competition: "Make a bold bid, sir, and you'll shake them off." The response was a jump from £40,000 to £60,000. The hammer immediately fell, and probably nobody was much surprised when the name of the buyer transpired. He was a man to whom £20,000 was a bagatelle, and he wanted the premises for the offices of the great business with which his name was associated.

## INCIDENTS UNDER THE HAMMER

**O**NE more story of strange bids: it was a great estate in the Highlands, and the auctioneer was a rather affected West End practitioner. For example, to emphasise the imagined fineness of his profile he always had a coloured screen put up behind him in the rostrum. Bidding began at a modest figure and went pretty soon up to about £50,000, when it dragged. Then a city agent, who had had an auction of his own at the Mart the same day and chanced to look in, bid some £10,000 extra, and the hammer was poised for a sale. Then the comedy opened. The city man rushed from the back of the room to the rostrum and hurriedly explained that, supposing the bidding to have been mere show, he had sought by his bid "to help things along." There was of course no sale to anybody that afternoon, and the city "help" was acknowledged in anything but complimentary terms. Both actors in that dramatic scene have long since joined the great majority. It is not without its uses to recall some of these incidents, if they serve to illustrate what a technical business is bidding at auction, and how it is not a thing for the unpractised to undertake, if they really want to buy under the hammer. Even at furniture sales the amateur may be at a grave disadvantage, and his best course is often to place a private note with the auctioneer of how much he is ready to pay for the lots that he happens to fancy.

## HOSPITAL WANTING FARMS

**T**HERE is an opportunity for the vendor of any large agricultural estate of the first class to secure at any rate its careful consideration by the governors of one of the great London hospitals, namely St. Thomas's. They have some funds to invest, and they share the current preference for farms. It is stipulated, however, that the holdings must be of fertile land with good houses and buildings. One of the points in favour of a sale to such perpetual corporations is that thereby the vendors avert the risk of the "break-up" of properties, and that they have the satisfaction of knowing that old-established tenants will not lightly be disturbed.

## SCOTTISH AND WELSH SALES

**M**ORVEN, near Ballater, an Aberdeenshire estate of 9,000 acres, for sale by Messrs. Knight Frank and Rutley, has a grouse moor which has yielded an average of nearly 1,000 brace every year for the last 17 years, and the salmon fishing in about three-quarters of a mile of one bank of the Dee. There are seven large farms, and extensive woods.

The Lleyen section of the Llanfair estate, in North Wales, 1,650 acres close to Pwllheli, is for auction in lots on November 3, at Carnarvon, by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co.

Vale of Clwyd farms, belonging to Captain Alan C. Graham, M.P., were offered at Ruthin, by Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, and one of 150 acres, changed hands for £4,150.

At an auction at Bromsgrove, a total of £33,820 included farms in Upton Warren, 241 acres for £7,000, and 147 acres for £8,250.

For £11,200 Scafield House Farm, 665 acres, was sold to a local buyer, at Horncastle.

Mr. Alfred J. Burrows (Messrs. Alfred J. Burrows, Clements, Winch and Sons), at Maidstone, sold Ashurst Court, 152 acres at Chart Sutton, for £3,600. The land is partly plum and apple plantations, and partly hop gardens. One farm of 62 acres, at Sutton Valence, remains for disposal on favourable terms.

Another group of sales of country residential property is reported by Mr. F. D. James (Messrs. Harrods Estate Offices) including freeholds at Farnham, with Messrs. H. B. Baverstock and Son, and others on the Chilterns. ARBITER.

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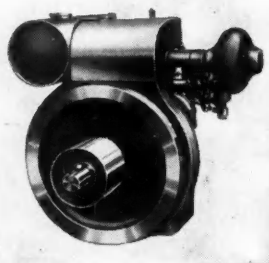
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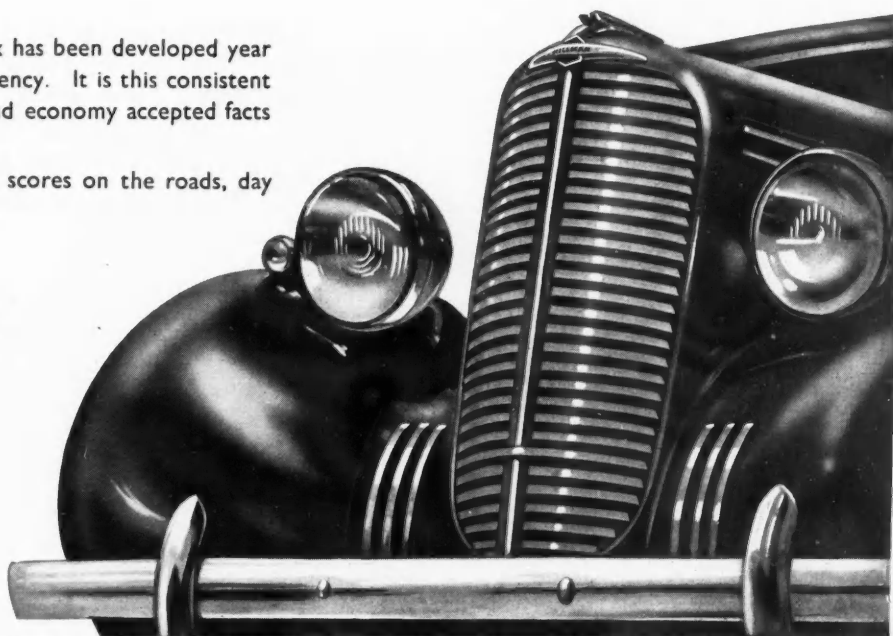
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## NEW BOOKS

## THE MAGIC OF THE HISTORIAN

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

**M**R. A. L. ROWSE, whose *Tudor Cornwall* is published by Cape (18s.), puts on his title-page some familiar words of the prophet Ezekiel: "Son of man, can these bones live?" What bones Mr. Rowse has passed in review, assayed, examined and assessed! There is hardly a page in the book that does not carry beneath the text some reference or many references to the immense boneyard of history in which the author has delved. State papers, parish records, family accounts, legal proceedings: all the vast litter that men and women, dying, leave behind them, has been turned over by this patient researcher intent to know what manner of men and women these were, what they did, thought, hoped and feared; and how the wide seas of national history flooded into their parochial dykes, obliterating many landmarks, creating ducts that have not since been destroyed between that remotest part of western Europe and the general being.

## A LIVING RECORD

It is difficult to imagine a book more thoroughly or reliably documented. Nothing has been taken by hearsay or second-hand. If Mr. Rowse wants to know what was the difference in price between a pound of cheese in Launceston and a pound of cheese in Lostwithiel in 1549, he is the sort of man who won't rest till he has found an authentic and contemporary kitchen record which tells him.

It is one thing to amass information: it is another to master it. Therein lies the difference between the books of learned bores and the lively works of historians. Let it be said at once that Mr. Rowse's book is lively in every page. The bones live. His claim that this is a "portrait of a society" is made out. Rarely perhaps has it been made out so completely by any author trying to do this sort of thing. Here, living on the page, are the Cornish men and women of Tudor times as they were: the gentry and the yeomen, the tin-workers and the fishermen, the townsfolk and country-folk, the pirates, warriors, all the gallimaufry of an ancient and mysterious race who, not long before this story opens, had a language of their own, a racial isolation, a touchiness and a pride that were invaded and largely overcome by the inflowing currents of Tudor times.

## THE REFORMATION

Those currents are summed up under the generic name of the Reformation, and the question which Mr. Rowse set himself to answer, he tells us, was: "What was the Reformation when you come to study it under the microscope? what did it mean? what did it do and how did it work? what were its effects upon the development of our society?"

He is qualified from every point of view to undertake this scrutiny, and not least because the survey is of his own province, the place where he was born and where his forebears were participants in the actions recorded. This, as much as anything, must have given him confidence in what he calls "this strange business of reconstructing the past out of bits

of paper and fragments and stones."

Once the Tudor monarchs had quarrelled with Rome, all that is here recorded was an inevitable sequel. It was a war-like time; wars are expensive luxuries; the Roman Church had much valuable property in Cornwall as elsewhere; this was seized to help appease the insatiable hunger of the Exchequer; but it was not retained by the Crown, as had been the first intention. It was sold here and there, and so the status of the land-owning gentry was fortified.

This immense and significant change in the social structure was accompanied by the increasing use of West Country men and ships in the wars. Thus Cornish people were drawn within the sweep of the common national effort.

## EXCITING DETAIL

This is the main line of Mr. Rowse's examination, and it is illustrated with an extraordinary wealth of exciting detail. His field is deliberately limited so that he can show not how all this worked out in general effect but how it affected the destinies of particular peoples and families. We see their rise or fall as they were willing or unwilling to co-operate with the powerful forces that the Reformation unleashed.

There were in Cornwall many who were not willing so to co-operate, and the most tragical part of the book is that which follows the fortunes of these Cornish recusants. To them the old faith was the true faith, and they were willing to lose their goods and their lives—as some of them did—rather than deny it. "The papal action," says Mr. Rowse, "made them choose between being heretics and being traitors." The recusants, again to use the author's word, were fifth-columnists; for they were taught by priests that "if any Catholic prince were to invade a country to reclaim it to Rome, all Catholics should be ready to aid and assist the invader." It was because Rome thus set itself against the instinct of patriotism, says Mr. Rowse, that it ensured its own defeat.

## ALL FOR THEIR FAITH

All the same, these recusants had their nobility. In a world scrambling for material possessions, they were willing and ready to part with all material things for the sake of an idea. Whether the idea was right or wrong is not now the point, any more than whether Pastor Niemöller's ideas are right or wrong. The point is that these men and women believed they were right; and even if it were necessary to destroy them, it ill becomes a later historian to mock at them.

This, unfortunately, Mr. Rowse does. One of them is dismissed as "a self-complacent fanatic fool of the first water," and as to his faith—well, he had "that futile satisfaction." The "poor hunted priests," says the author, "gave their lives in order that the souls of their gentry might be saved," but one imagines that it went a little deeper than that with gentry and priests alike.

This seems to me the only place in the book where Mr. Rowse suffers from an inability to enter imaginatively into these reconstructed lives. For the rest, here is a treasurable

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A Prague newspaper in September, 1938, printed the words: "We wanted to sing with the angels; now we must howl with the wolves." This supplies the title for Mr. Maurice Hindus's new novel *To Sing with the Angels* (Collins, 9s. 6d.).

It is a story of how the Nazi invasion worked out in one particular Czech village, and we see it all mainly through two pairs of eyes: those of Annichka, the daughter of sturdy old Jozhka, the Mayor, and those of Jozhka, son of Heinrich Liebergut, chief cabinet-maker in the mayor's furniture shop.

The Lieberguts were the only Germans in the village. Jozhka was a sickly child, and Annichka was the only girl who liked him, who thought there was something in him. The novel opens with a spirited account of a village festival on the day when Jozhka, who has been sent to a sanatorium in Germany, comes home a new man: new, alas! in more ways than one, having not only mended his body and become physically powerful, but also having imbibed deep draughts of Nazi doctrine. He has imbibed particularly deeply the Fuehrer's promise that he wants no war. Jozhka has several cutting-books stuffed with the Fuehrer's promises to this effect. His tragedy, as the book develops, is the tragedy of a man who finds that what he worships is based in lies, perfidy and deceit.

Annichka's tragedy is in the breakdown of her belief that you can overcome evil by compromising with it. She learned at last the bitter truth "Either we are all free or we are all dead—all of us—Slavs and Germans;" but it took a lot of learning.

When Jozhka was appointed Nazi commissar in his native village, when all the place was set by the ears and abominations began to stain all lives, Annichka made the heroic but futile decision to marry Jozhka, thinking thus to soften the blows that were raining upon her beloved community. But Jozhka and Annichka alike learned that they were insignificant pawns in a game played by vast evil forces. In the end Jozhka, a frustrated, disillusioned maniac, is dead by his own hand, and Annichka is enlisted under the only banner left her: the banner of the hidden fighters, the *saboteurs*.

Before this end comes, the author has led us through terrible ways and dreadful days, painting on an immense canvas a not-easily-forgotten picture of modern beasts a-prowl.

\*\*\*

Mr. William D. Bayles, an American journalist who lived long in Germany, gives us in *Caesars in Goose-step* (Jarrolds, 12s. 6d.) a series of pictures of Hitler and his Nazi associates. He rightly stresses "this background of accomplishment, these undeniable achievements," which made me think of what a refugee German writer once said to me about Hitler. "Why, the man doesn't even speak cultured German!"

Alas! the folly of such views! No doubt the Cavaliers thought Cromwell equally uncouth. Here Mr. Bayles lets us see what these men are, their strengths and their weaknesses, and, if there is little new in his account, at all events he has neatly summarised the size of the people we have to reckon with.

\*\*\*

Miss Eleanor Farjeon's novel *Brave Old Woman* (Michael Joseph, 8s. 6d.) is a record of a humble life that achieved no laurels and left, on its passing, no gap save in the minds of a few who understood the meaning

of the saying "He that loseth his life shall save it."

Tudsy Trueman, born in comfortable circumstances, fell early into poverty, helped her mother to run a lodging-house, slaved for her slothful brother, pulled her sister out of dire troubles, was nursery governess in a number of families, and died, very old, during this present war. Miss Farjeon tells Tudsy's story with an intimate sympathy which suggests that some actual Tudsy has inspired this gracious tale.

## TWO NEW NOVELS

IF you read Mr. St. John Ervine's book *Sophia* (Macmillan, 8s. 6d.) for the story, you go out—as Johnson once said of Richardson's novels—and hang yourself. But if, while enjoying story, dialogue and character drawing, you also have the sort of mind that likes to be stimulated by

argument, provoked by combativeness, led up innumerable garden paths for the sake of the view at the end of them, then *Sophia* is indeed the book for you. Sophia, by the way, is dead: dead at the very moment of the book's opening. But she is a delightful woman, for all that; and we follow her mental and emotional reactions as, from a dim place lying between time and eternity, she surveys with a new clarity her parson husband, her two children, her own funeral, her parson father and her ended life in general. Mr. Ervine's difficulty has been to find someone to argue with Sophia. We don't mind his using speeches made by her long-dead father, who is as delightful as herself, or by her scientist cousin, who gives Mr. Ervine a chance, eagerly seized, to belabour readers of *The New Statesman* and such. But sometimes he is so hard pressed for an antagonist that he even drags in Godfrey, Sophia's husband, to keep an argument going; and to find Godfrey talking intelligently when we

have been told again and again that he is next door to an imbecile is, we feel, a little hard on us. However, the vigorous arguments, the lively thwackings and the eager, generous, questing spirit that make up Mr. St. John Ervine easily cause us to forget this protest; and we read on gladly until Sophia, to our regret, finds that she has had enough of observing this life, and is ready to begin another.

## GENIUS IN THE PROVINCES

STUDIES of genius are apt to be unconvincing and boring; but in *Allanay* (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 9s.), Mr. Frank Baker attacks the subject from a novel angle: that of an ageing musician ending his days as a lodger in a small provincial household. The author's ambitious, major theme—that of the influence of genius on commonplaceness and *vice versa*—never quite comes off: but the impression of the power and passion of genius is well conveyed. An odd, sometimes faltering, but always individual novel.

## ACORNS FOR PIGS



"Please hurry up. We know you've got something nice in that bag for our dinner to-day."



"Ah, good! we knew it was acorns. What a treat, and we are enjoying them."

Acorns in moderation can be fed very satisfactorily to pigs. Commercial Pig-Keeper, as well as Cottagers and Pig Clubs, will find them a welcome addition to the present small ration of feeding stuffs. Enormous quantities are now wasted and an organized system for collection by children should be adopted in every village. A fair price is ½d. per lb., and, as an example of what can be done, over seven tons were collected last year in the little village of Whimble which has a population of only seven hundred.

This appeal is inserted by Whiteways Cyder Co. Ltd. of Whimble, Devon, who regularly fed acorns to their herd of a thousand pigs last winter. Their Managing Director, Mr. Ronald Whiteway, J.P., is Chairman of the Kitchen Waste Sub-Committee of the Devon County War Agricultural Committee, and he will be pleased to send a special leaflet "Acorns for Pigs," which gives full particulars of method of feeding, analytical food value, etc., free on application.

# UTILITY CLOTHES

By P. JOYCE REYNOLDS



★These are the two outstanding silhouettes in the Molyneux collection, one pliant and moulded, the other a box jacket over a sheath frock.

★Note the absence of belts. The town coat fits like a glove; the dress has semicircular overlapping darts at the waistline.

★Unostentatious neutral tones combined with black, or together, are featured by Molyneux.

THE fabric collections still show a tremendous variety of colour and weave, though the actual yardage is limited by the quota. There is no lack of designing ability, fortunately, and the collections are inspiring. Woollen mills are to continue to make a small percentage only of high-quality goods. The rest of their machinery will be devoted to the utility cloths, which will be on the market in the New Year. These must conform to certain specific regulations as to weight, and have to undergo rigorous tests for durability. After this, manufacturers are given complete freedom to do what they like in colour and weave, so that there will still be great variety, though limitations in price must prohibit any expensive process in dyeing or weaving. The Government realise that it is vitally necessary to preserve the nucleus of artists, designers and craftsmen, all working in close collaboration with the manufacturers, so that the industry will be ready for the post-war period when a tremendous

## Molyneux Town Coat

BUTTONS down the front, moulding the silhouette into one fluid line from shoulder to hem. The material is dark clerical grey Cheviot tweed, and the nutria fur makes a charming colour contrast. The triangular muff and round mushroom hat are nutria.

## The Box Jacket

THIS is the short jacket that Molyneux is showing throughout his collection, absolutely straight from shoulder to hip. This one is in honey-beige tweed with Persian lamb collar and buttons, worn over a black, tubular, beltless frock.



Photographs G. DENES



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SOLUTION to No. 611

The winner of this crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of October 10, will be announced next week.

ARCTIC CIRCLE  
EVON OIE  
LEECHES BEGGAR'S  
YR OIR G S T  
IGNORES ARIZONA  
NUTT NWI  
GASES EVERGREEN  
CND E  
ATTRACTED CUPID  
ROL YORIG  
BARRIES SAWMILL  
ENGOTS GA  
TEACHER OBLIGES  
DTENIES  
GOOSESTEPPED

- ACROSS.
1. Clothing for the imagination only? (two words, 5, 5)

6. For an engagement, perhaps, but it's liable to go up in smoke (4)

9. "Stir me dust" (anagr.) (10)

10. Painter apparently addressing the pastry (4)

12. Employers' ruses (5)

13. Major Barbara's army (9)

14. Mercurial virtue (5)

16. The service of the Navy (6)

20. What feet, tongue and rain produce (6)

21. Industrious insect marching from west to south (5)

25. Suggests there's no vision on the left, though the sight sounds O.K. (two words, 4, 5)

26. A fibre (5)

27. Play in an untidy little promenade (4)

28. Delivered by a pugilistic pianist? (two words, 7, 3)

29. John gets dry about nothing! (4)

30. Played the hypocrite (10)

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 612

A prize of books to the value of two guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 612, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, October 23, 1941.

The winner of Crossword No. 610 is J. S. R. Byers, Esq., Travellers' Club, London, S.W. 1.

- DOWN.
1. The whole earth is the sepulchre of such men (6)

2. A holy man in need (6)

3. The thread of these tales can never be lost (5)

4. Withstood (8)

5. Orthography has nothing to do with their enchantment (6)

7. Unquestioning, though started by a devil (8)

8. Some of Millet's people (8)

11. It's clear that father is about to go under canvas (6)

15. "Sculpture and Painting are moments of life;—is life itself." —Landor (6)

17. Mimicked round a fruit, or what the ghost did (8)

18. Flows on the wind, though it seems to have come from the water (8)

19. Appendages for a film star's admirer? (8)

22. Guinea-pig with the gout (6)

23. She is not as yet a real belle (6)

24. Bent (6)

26. They arm in the south-west (5)

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 612

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9						10	
						11	
12				13			
		14	15		16		
17	18			19			
20				21			
				22		23	24
25					26		
27			28				
29			30				

Name.....

Address .....

## The Fur-lined

expansion in the export wool trade will be necessary. Hence the allotment of raw material for high-quality merchandise.

The Jacqmar collection shows a marked colour trend in favour of the tomato and brick tones of red, chamois and sulphur yellows, incisive peacock and turquoise blues and a pale sky blue that has a lot of white in it. The stocks at this famous house are good and amazingly varied. There is a splendid series of sets of two plain Shetland friezes with checks or plaids to match—a plum and a blue have a matching plum and blue check; a peacock and a sulphur yellow an accompanying yellow and peacock. Another good combination is chocolate brown and pale blue. Three tweeds at Jacqmar's with a broken line check on a plain ground are called greengage jam, plum jam and honey. Colours are realistic.

THE newest dog-tooth check is a large one and comes in tomato and dark green. Mr. Allen of Jacqmar liked the colour combination of the tomatoes growing in the window-boxes at Jacqmar's so much that he showed them to a Scottish manufacturer who made this highly successful tweed, which has its matching plain dark green frieze. Cobwebby jerseys for the shirt of a suit match many plaids and checks, picking up the predominant tone. An attractive

Photographs G. DENES



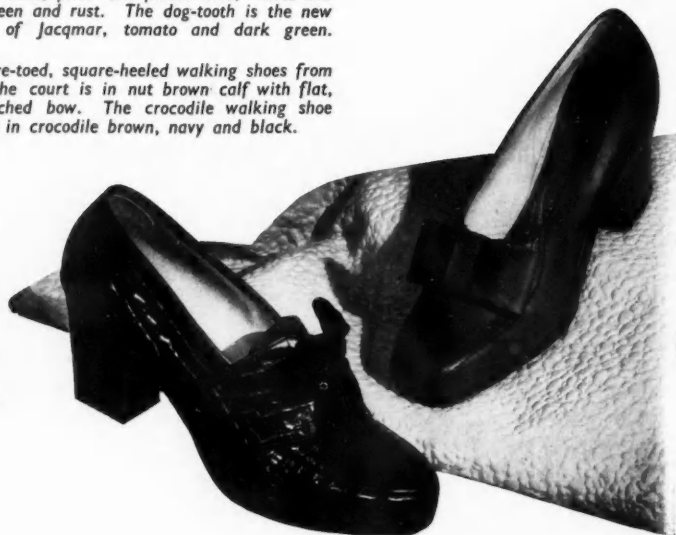
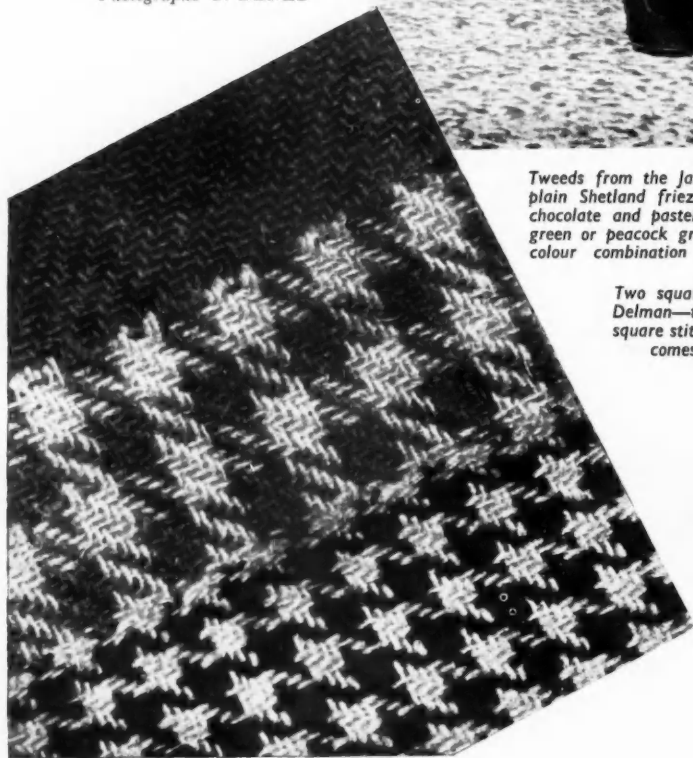
## Country Coat

FOR midwinter, Travella design a coat in a thick, blurred, fleecy plaid in tones of greens and rust, and line it with rabbit treated to look like ocelot. It can be bought from Harvey Nichols in London, Marshall and Snelgrove in Leeds, Southport and Birmingham, Adderly's of Leicester, and Jenners of Edinburgh. Hat by Erik.

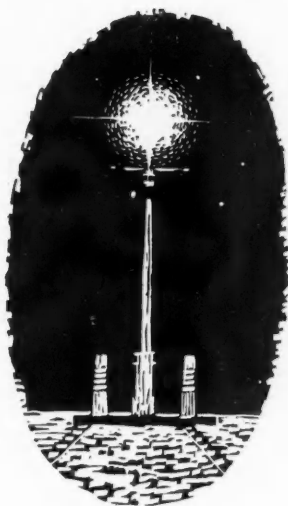
tweed has a blurred line check that separates oblongs an inch by an inch and a half alternately flecked or herringbone. The basic colours are mixed but on the sombre side, the blurred line gay—chamois yellow on sparrow browns, turquoise on chestnut shades. A herringbone tweed in flesh pink, rose and bottle green is an effective and original colour combination. Fine dress worsteds, of the kind that the French used to make, are shown in fancy dice checks, in the traditional district checks, and in neat patterns used in France for silk twills. These, by the by, are selling in Buenos Aires, where Jacqmar are filling large repeats. Plain Shetland friezes in blackberry and the fashionable pastel blue with a check in two shades are selling as well in Cairo as in London. Fine woollens, now being exported for next spring, and not on sale in this country till then, are being made in pastel blue that has a lot of white in it, a chamois yellow, a chalky pink, and a warm honey beige. Summer coat weights come in self herringbones with a fine matching dress woollen, and the colours point the way to the spring fashions, where plain fabrics with a soft handle are likely to predominate, and the silhouette consequently be still as pliant as the winter one.

Tweeds from the Jacqmar collection for the home market—plain Shetland frieze with a large matching check, either chocolate and pastel blue, plum and pastel blue, russet and green or peacock green and rust. The dog-tooth is the new colour combination of Jacqmar, tomato and dark green.

Two square-toed, square-heeled walking shoes from Delman—the court is in nut brown calf with flat, square stitched bow. The crocodile walking shoe comes in crocodile brown, navy and black.







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the  
lights  
go up**

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